

Inflation rate at 21.8% the highest for four years

Inflation rate jumped to 21.8 per cent in April, the highest for four years and more than the figure when the Government came to power a year ago. The Chancellor has given warning that the figures are bound to get worse in the next few months although there should be an improvement in July when the effects of last year's Budget are eliminated.

Chancellor predicts worse to come

Caroline Atkinson

The annual rate of inflation 1.8 per cent in April was highest for four years, due to figures announced yesterday. Britain's balance of payments went deeper into the trade gap widening to £1.5 billion.

Although the Prime Minister hinted on Thursday that today's price figures would bad, they were worse than people expected, and provided a series of protest from low ministers and labourers.

Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, said yesterday that the rates were bound to get worse in the next few months, though there would be an improvement in July when the effects of last year's Budget are eliminated.

Nevertheless, inflation could be running between 18-19 per cent by the end of the year, in contrast to Government's Budget forecast of 16 per cent.

Britain again has the highest rate of inflation in the EEC, exceeding the Italian rate of just over 20 per cent. Price rises which will add to this month's figures include bread, electricity and gas.

The big problem for the Government is that high pay rises are feeding into the inflation figures, on top of the tax increases and all price rises.

The pattern of future wage settlements will be of crucial importance.

Over the past year, about half the rise in prices has been due to higher labour costs, and a third to more expensive imports.

Sterling's rise has not been enough to offset the effect on import prices of rapid rises in commodity prices. However, there is evidence that raw material prices are weakening, so this pressure on industry's costs is being removed.

The Government's anti-inflation strategy depends on a squeeze on industry finances, leading to lower pay rises.

There is growing evidence of cash flow problems in industry, particularly through the combination of high interest rates and a high exchange rate.

The poor outlook for inflation is probably one element in the Government's decision to keep interest rates up. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor have recently indicated that the cost of money must remain high, dashing industry's hopes of an early fall in interest rates. High inflation means that although interest rates are now very high in nominal terms, they are scarcely positive in real terms.

Mr Roy Hattersley, a member of the Shadow Cabinet, yesterday said that the Government must stick to its money targets to bring inflation down.

Mr James Lester, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Government must stick to its money targets to bring inflation down.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, shows that the number of permanent secretaries has increased from 34 in 1967 to 41. The number of deputy secretaries has increased from 92 in 1965 to 157.

Inflation was the disease that monetarism was supposed to

Government in Japan topples after party rift

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, May 16

The Japanese Government suffered a stunning and unexpected defeat in the Diet tonight, forcing Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister, to dissolve Parliament within 10 days and call a general election next month.

Mr Ohira called an emergency meeting of the Cabinet later and officials indicated that Parliament will be dissolved after the decision receives the official approval of Emperor Hirohito.

Mr Masayoshi Ito, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, announced tonight that Parliament will be dissolved as soon as possible.

The Ohira Government was toppled in the Lower House when a motion of No Confidence was tabled by the opposition Socialist Party and carried by 242 votes. The ruling party, with a total strength of 255 seats in the Lower House, managed to muster only 187 votes when 69 dissenting party members abstained. Members of all five main opposition parties banded their benches in triumph as the results were announced.

This is the first time in 27 years that a motion of No Confidence has been carried by the Japanese Parliament. Many political observers believe that the débâcle will split the ruling party and herald in the end of a quarter of a century of uninterrupted rule by the conservatives.

The debilitated ruling Liberal Democratic Party was returned to office with a bare majority of 256 of the 511 seats in the Lower House at the general election in October last year.

The drama began this afternoon when two former prime ministers and rival faction leaders within the ruling party, Mr Takeo Miki and Mr Takeo Fukuda, made it clear that many of their supporters would abstain unless Mr Ohira was prepared to take substantial steps to clear up corruption within the Liberal Democrat ranks.

Looking grim, Mr Ohira entered Parliament later tonight to hear Mr Kazuo Asakawa, the leader of the Japanese Socialist Party, introduce a motion of No Confidence against conservative rule. There had been no hints that the ruling party might break ranks and most Japanese newspapers continued unabated in many parts of Britain during the day.

The London Weather Centre said it had recorded seven consecutive days of almost continuous sunshine, the longest sunny spell for nearly 50 years.

Continued on page 4, col 8



Firemen fighting a large mountain-side blaze near Bettws-y-Coed, Gwynedd, yesterday.

Forest fires cause £1m damage

By Staff Reporters

More than £1m of woodland has been destroyed by fire in the past few weeks, the Forestry Commission said yesterday.

The commission has lost 3,000 acres of timber, and private foresters 1,000, in fires which continued unabated in many parts of Britain during the day.

The London Weather Centre said it had recorded seven consecutive days of almost continuous sunshine, the longest sunny spell for nearly 50 years.

Military personnel were called in to help commission workers, the fire service and national park wardens to tackle further outbreaks as the scale of the fire approached that of the 1976 drought, when 5,000 acres of woodland were razed. The use of "Green Goddess" former Civil Defence fire tenders is again being considered.

The commission yesterday closed four of its recreational areas—Grizedale, in the Lake District, and the Scottish forest areas of Ardross, Glen Affric and the Black Isle.

The biggest fire yesterday was at Ringwood in the New Forest, where flames, leaping from tree-top to tree-top across 200 acres of woodland were threatening houses.

Five large fires were burning in the Peak District, one to the

west of Sheffield, another on Kinder Scout, a favourite spot for walkers and climbers, and others in Bleaklow, the Dovedale area, Melton in Yorkshire.

Two big outbreaks were affecting the Lake District National Park at Rusland Valley and at High Down, both near Windermere.

All the brigades involved said they were having great difficulty finding the fires because of the lack of water supplies in remote hill areas. All senior fire officers reiterated a general appeal to the public to take the greatest possible care this weekend, with cigarette ends, unspent matches and picnic stoves.

In Wales firemen and troops fought throughout Thursday night to contain a fire which

Continued on page 2, col 3

All BBC orchestras to strike over cuts

By Martin Huckabee

Music Reporter

All 11 BBC orchestras will go on strike from June 1, and all other members of the Musicians' Union have been instructed not to perform for the BBC from that date. Severe disruption of programmes is expected on both radio and television.

The announcement by the union yesterday came after a ballot of the BBC orchestral players, which gave overwhelming support for strike action over the BBC's decision to scrap five of the orchestras as part of its economies; 419 of the players voted for a strike and 51 against.

The BBC yesterday showed no sign of reversing its decision and both sides appear set for a long battle.

As well as limiting much of the output of Radio 3, and many of the concerts and other music programmes on the other radio networks, the union pointed out that its action would also affect television programmes, including many which were not primarily musical.

Variety performances such as the *Val Doonican Show* could be badly affected as *Top of the Pops*.

The BBC has indicated that it has reserves of recorded material which could be used to fill the gaps but the union said it was calling on other BBC unions not to cooperate in replacing the music.

Union members in outside orchestras are also likely to take action to prevent the BBC broadcasting their performances.

Mr Stanley Hibbert, the union's assistant secretary, said that although the strike was not

due to begin until June 1, members of the English National Opera Orchestra were refusing to allow a broadcast of their performance on May 25.

He said there was similar support from other orchestras and some foreign orchestras.

The BBC yesterday said that it had "noted the concern of the union's action, but the corporation's determination not to give in to the musicians' demands was made clear by an uncompromising statement about the Promenade concerts.

The BBC firmly denied a report in suggesting that the Proms, which are due to start in two months, could go ahead if the strike lasted that long.

It said there was no foundation in suggesting that it was looking for independent promoters to take over the concerts, which would not then be broadcast. It said: "The BBC has every intention of replacing the Proms and there will be no substitutions whatsoever. If the Musicians' Union chooses not to allow the broadcasting of the Proms, there will be no Proms."

The orchestras facing disbandment are the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Northern Ireland Orchestra, the Northern Radio Orchestra, the Midland Radio Orchestra and the London Studio Players; that involves the loss of 153 full-time and 19 part-time jobs.

ITN returns: Independent Television News was back on the air yesterday after a week-long dispute over the introduction of electronic news gathering (ENG) equipment. Bulletins were broadcast at 1 pm and 5.45 pm, as was *News at Ten*.

Iran plea for British help in hostage crisis

By Edward Mortimer

President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr of Iran has appealed to Britain and other European countries for help in solving the crisis over the American hostages.

In an interview with Signor Igor Man of *La Stampa* who represented the four European newspapers (*The Times*, *Le Monde*, *La Stampa* and *Die Welt*), Mr Bani-Sadr has also brought into the open the power struggle between himself and Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, leader of the Islamic Republican Party, which has emerged as the dominant force in the new Iranian Parliament.

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Something is moving. But anyhow I think the Parliament will succeed in solving the problem once it meets", he said.

On the effect of sanctions, President Bani-Sadr says: "I prefer to endure any privation, any economic sacrifice, rather

than throw myself into the arms of the Soviet Union."

Economically, he says, Iran could survive a total European embargo by turning elsewhere, but "politically it would be a catastrophe".

Admitting that in present conditions "it is difficult even for our friends to show solidarity with us", Mr Bani-Sadr is nevertheless emphatic that Iran cannot be helped by sanctions and condemnations.

I turn to Britain, to France, to Germany, as well as Italy (whose bakers, whatever happens, will have nothing to fear): Suggest to us what to do. Put forward concrete proposals. Act as mediators. Do something. Instead of just condemning us, take notice that the hostage problem is making objective difficulties not only for us but also for you . . .

Asked what conditions are

Hint from Mr Muskie of some progress at Gromyko meeting

From Michael Hornsby

Vienna, May 16

vary of the signing of the Austrian state treaty.

He said the Soviet Union has been and remains a constructive supporter of undivided progress in détente in which political measures are complemented by military measures.

At the same ceremony, at which there were also speeches from Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and M. Jean François-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, Mr Muskie pointedly compared Austria's present condition as an independent and neutral state with the situation in Afghanistan.

Looking straight at a story-faced Mr Gromyko seated in the front row of the audience before him, Mr Muskie intoned: "We must soberly face another reality. The principles of neutrality, of independence, and territorial integrity so respected in the case of Austria, are today being tested."

He went on: "Today, we faced again with a vital lesson from the past: that an act of aggression anywhere threatens security everywhere. Today, no less than in the past, my country and others will oppose such actions. Through the firmness and clarity of our response through a strong defence, and strong alliances, our purpose is to preserve the balance and to reinforce the restraint on which peace rests, for us and for others."

At Lord Carrington's invitation Mr Muskie discussed the Soviet-inspired initiative on Afghanistan's with his British, French and West German counterparts over a working breakfast. There was agreement that the Soviet proposal as it stood was unacceptable.

Summit possible: Soviet sources said that a summit meeting between President Brezhnev and President Giscard d'Estaing could take place soon (Reuter reports). The sources indicated that Warsaw was the most likely venue and Polish sources suggested it might be as early as Sunday and Monday. Photograph and Muslim initiative, page 4; leading article, page 13

Swimmers for Moscow

Britain's swimmers and divers were given the go-ahead last night to compete in the Moscow Olympic Games. The British Swimming Federation made its decision at a meeting in Loughborough. The swimmer Carter turned down a personal plea yesterday from

Lord Killanin, head of the International Olympic Committee, to end his boycott of the Moscow games.

The Irish Government came out strongly against an Irish team competing in Moscow, a decision influenced by the West German decision.

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HOME NEWS

Clegg commission admits £130m mistake in its report on teachers' and lecturers' pay

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

The early demise of the Clegg Commission on Pay Comparability appeared even more likely yesterday after the commission had admitted making a £130m mistake in its report on teachers' pay.

In a letter to the Prime Minister Professor Hugh Clegg, chairman of the commission, said that a mistake in the comparison of the salaries of a graduate going into industry and a graduate teacher had led the commission to recommend pay rises for 600,000 teachers and lecturers which were nearly 4 percentage points higher than they should have been.

The increases should have ranged from 13 to 21 per cent. Professor Clegg said, not the 17 to 20 per cent recommended in the commission's report published last month. The average increase should have been 14.5 per cent, not 18.2 per cent.

The cost of the corrected recommendation in a full year would be about £510m above last year's rate, instead of the £640m mentioned in the report.

Professor Clegg said that the commission greatly regretted that an error of that kind had been made. It occurred in information presented to the

commission, and they accepted full responsibility for the conclusions which they drew from it.

Local authorities are considering the implications of the error. They will seek legal advice on whether they can break the agreement on Clegg already reached with the 470,000 teachers in England and Wales. Negotiations are still continuing on the Clegg award for 70,000 teachers in Scotland, and for 80,000 college lecturers.

Mr John Horrell, leader of the employers' side on the Burslem Committee, which sets teachers' pay, said that they did not yet know what action they would take. The situation was complex and there appeared to be no firm ground.

If the employers decide that negotiations on the Clegg award as originally recommended are too far advanced, they may seek to cut their losses by reducing their offer on the teachers' and lecturers' 1980 pay claims. But then they will find it difficult to base their arguments on an inability to pay.

The 1980 pay claim for teachers in England and Wales has gone to arbitration, the

unions having rejected 13 per cent. But the arbitration panel would be expected to take into account the Clegg commission's award.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), said that if the figures in the Clegg report had been 4 per cent less, there would have been no agreement.

"We would have thrown Clegg out of the window," he said.

"There can be no going back now on what has been decided by the Burslem Committee."

A special conference of the NUT meets in Scarborough today to ratify the Clegg award.

Many people were saying yesterday that a mistake by the Clegg commission of that size must further undermine the commission's position. There have been persistent rumours that the Government is thinking of winding up the commission by the end of the year.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons last month that the Government was looking at the future of the commission.

Two of the six commissioners

resigned last month and have not been replaced. Professor Clegg has announced that he plans to retire by the end of September.

£54m plan for jobs in Corby

From Our Correspondent

A £54m strategy was announced yesterday for the struggling steel town of Corby in Northamptonshire. The plan has been drawn up by the town's Joint Industrial Development Committee, to reduce the high unemployment in the town.

With the end of steelmaking in Corby, the unemployment rate will rise soon to 20 per cent, three times the national average. The plan incorporates a package of proposals designed to lay the foundations of the local economy and to provide jobs to the middle 1990s.

More than £34m will be spent on building factories and industrial sites covering a total of 600 acres. Nearly 220m will go towards reestablishing passenger rail facilities and new roads.

Councillor Kelvin Glendenning, leader of the Labour-controlled district council, said: "This is the most important document ever produced in Corby."

'Monetarist threat to basic industries'

From Tim Jones

Swansea

Britain's basic industries of coal and steel are being put at risk merely to satisfy the "mad monetarist policies" of the Government, Mr Alec Jones, shadow Secretary of State for Wales, told delegates to the Labour Party of Wales's annual conference yesterday.

Mr Stanley Biddiscombe, the party's chairman, said that the Government was destroying the steel industry by using high interest rates and cuts in public spending on goods and services to create a slump.

Mr Biddiscombe, an area organizer for the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said that the terms of the appointment of Mr Ian MacGregor as the corporation's chairman proved that the Tories were "living in a world of fantasy".

Mr David Hughes, the Labour Party's national agent, said that people who had helped to vote in the Government were beginning to realize their mistake. But Labour could not be complacent and expect Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her policies to win the next election for it.

The day of action showed that in some areas those who should be supporting us remain unclear on the challenges facing the country."

Workers 'reject key point in TUC policy'

By Our Political Correspondent

The failure of the Trades Union Congress's day of action on Wednesday had shown the almost total rejection by trade unionists of political strikes, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the Commons, said in Oxford last night.

It also showed, he thought, that most unionists disagreed with a vital aspect of the TUC's attack on the Government. "Far from viewing the Employment Bill as an attack on the rights of trade unionists, they saw it as enlarging those rights", Mr St John-Stevens told the university Conservative association.

"One of the most important reforms in that Bill is the provision to make public funds available to finance secret ballots in trade unions.

"The abject and humiliating

rout of the extreme left on the executive of the Civil and Public Services Association is a timely vindication of that provision."

It was, Mr St John-Stevens said, the first time that the CPSA had elected its leadership by secret ballot at the membership at branch level. The result was that the left, which previously had 20 seats out of 26, was left with only two.

"Why was that?" he asked. "It was because they had lost the advantage of branch block votes, in which dedicated activists who attend meetings and stay to the bitter end can, more or less, dictate the outcome."

It is perhaps not without significance that the CPSA's new election system is somewhat akin to the miners' pithead ballot, which has tended to make the coal industry less strike-prone than it might otherwise have been."

"It is a fact that on no occasion on which the TUC has asked to see ministers have any of us refused", he said. "Nor is it true that we fail to pay attention to their advice."

"Only if this is done will the failure of the day of action and the passage of the Employment Bill mark a watershed in Britain's industrial relations", Mr St John-Stevens said.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in his constituency of Sudbury and Woodbridge last night that it was "just bunkum" for union speakers at the day of action rallies to say that they were being cold-shouldered by the Government.

"Since the election I myself have had no fewer than 35 separate meetings with representatives of the unions, the vast majority of them affiliated to the TUC", he said.

"Many column-inches have been devoted to the last few days to telling us of the awful plight of the TUC; how it feels unloved, unwanted, uncertain", Mr Bruce-Gardyne said.

"It is fate that has befallen many other over-mighty subjects down the ages, the medieval barons, the nineteenth-century mill-owners."

Asian witnesses differ about Peach incident

By Nicholas Timmins

Two Asian witnesses, a brother and sister, gave differing versions yesterday of how Mr Elsir Peach was allegedly struck on the head by a policeman during the demonstration against the National Front at Southall, London, in April last year.

Mr Raminder Singh Atwal, aged 25, a factory worker, of Orchard Avenue, said he saw Mr Peach standing in Beechcroft Avenue. Two policemen officers went across to him and said: "Come on, move on".

Mr Atwal continued: "I was surprised to see the behaviour. This man was badly injured. I was thinking they might help him. I thought if I went into the road I might be arrested. They ordered him to move but he was unable to move."

He thought Blair Peach looked frightened of being hit again. He put his hand up to his head to shield it.

Both Mr Atwal and Mrs Sanghera said they saw Mr Peach hit only once. Mrs Sanghera said Mr Peach walked across Orchard Avenue unaided and fell into the garden. She said that her brother was not present at the time.

She added that her brother did not arrive home until after Mr Peach was taken away in the ambulance. The police vans came along Orchard

Avenue and not down Beechcroft Avenue to the junction of the two roads.

Later, Mr Stephen Sedley, for the Peach family, read out a section of the statement she had made to the police three days after the event. In it she had, in fact, said that her brother was in the garden at the time of the events she described. In the statement she also said that the police vans went down Beechcroft Avenue.

She agreed that her recollection of many of the things of that day was now confused.

Both Mr Atwal and Mrs Sanghera were asked by Mr Hugh Carlisle, for the Police Federation, whether it could be said that Mr Peach was not injured in the road at all, but received his injuries in the house. Both rejected the suggestion.

Both were also asked if they had really seen what they described. Both said they had. The hearing continues on Monday.

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Hosepipes banned because of drought

Continued from page 1

The rifle ranges at Bisley in Surrey were threatened, at one stage, but were saved by a charge of wind. Soldiers put out fires by felling trees and damping down other areas. As winds dropped, they contained the fire into small pockets.

In one of the bigger West Country outbreaks, 100 acres of heathland were destroyed near Exford in Somerset. Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service was tackling a string of fires in Fernford. Two cottages were evicted.

The long dry spell is causing water restrictions in many regions. The Welsh Water Authority announced a ban on garden hosepipes in some areas to start next week, and similar bans have been introduced in the West Country. Water authority officials in

YORKSHIRE

are also considering imposing a ban on garden hosepipes in north of Leeds, whose water pressure has been reduced.

A hosepipe ban could also be introduced in the North-West where the number of people using garden hoses has increased by more than a third this year.

The National Water Council said that there was no danger to Britain's supplies. Above all, it was during the first three months of the year meant there were adequate stocks in almost the whole of the country.

The only consolation for worried fire and water staff lies in the long-range weather forecast, which predicts unsatisfied weather at the end of this month.

WEATHER REPORTS

YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c. cloud; f. fair; r. rain; s. sun

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

Aberdeen: a 17 52 Florence: c 12 53

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5.41 pm

Moon rises: 11.55 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

MONDAY

Sun rises: 5.46 am

Moon rises: 11.51 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

TUESDAY

Sun rises: 5.51 pm

Moon rises: 11.56 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

WEDNESDAY

Sun rises: 5.57 pm

Moon rises: 11.59 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

THURSDAY

Sun rises: 5.63 pm

Moon rises: 12.04 am

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

FRIDAY

Sun rises: 5.69 pm

Moon rises: 12.09 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

SATURDAY

Sun rises: 5.75 pm

Moon rises: 12.14 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

SUNDAY

Sun rises: 5.81 pm

Moon rises: 12.19 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

MONDAY

Sun rises: 5.87 pm

Moon rises: 12.24 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

TUESDAY

Sun rises: 5.93 pm

Moon rises: 12.29 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

WEDNESDAY

Sun rises: 5.99 pm

Moon rises: 12.34 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 48

THURSDAY

Sun rises: 6.05 pm

Moon rises: 12.39 pm

London: C F Copenhagen: c 12 4

HOME NEWS

Increased detention of juveniles has failed, probation officers say

From Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
Bournemouth

Increased use of detention centres and borstals for juveniles had not worked, Mr Geoffrey Cartledge, chairman of the National Association of Probation Officers, said yesterday.

Joining the chorus of alarm about the dangers facing the prison system, he told the annual conference of the association that although there had been an almost direct shift from supervision to prison department custody "we now have a worse juvenile crime problem."

The Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, had envisaged the abolition of prison department custody for those aged 14 to 16. But its use had nearly doubled between 1970 and 1978. "There alone is over 4,000 of the increased prison population."

Mr Cartledge said that one cause for failure of the Act was inadequate funding. At least one London centre had been refused social inquiry reports through insufficient staff.

"There is no financial incentive whatever for local authorities to provide alternatives to prison department custody."

The association's professional committee was recommending that the Probation Service

should take over its former role as the primary agency responsible for the provision of services for juvenile offenders.

Mr Cartledge said there was a strong case for the introduction of community service and hostels for those aged 16.

The association was dissatisfied with being party to a penal system which imprisons on average, and for longer terms, more people on a per capita basis than any other nation in the western world."

The association would strive for the introduction of community alternatives to prison for the many thousands of offenders currently imprisoned who even the Government say could be safely dealt with non-custodially.

Not only was there a record prison population, but extra police recruiting because of pay increases would lead to more people appearing before the courts.

Mr Cartledge referred to the disenchantment of an assistant chief probation officer with the association's ability to represent the interests adequately of the young people whom he set up a youth assembly which has been formalized as an alternative association.

Mr Cartledge said: "Your national executive committee has refused to recognize this other association."

Cheaper Atlantic fares planned by US airline

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

World Airways, a California-based line, will become from June the forty-third carrier to offer services across the North Atlantic, and hopes to survive in that overcrowded market by offering cheaper fares.

Its executives said in London yesterday that it will charge £230 for a first-class single ticket between Gatwick airport, London, and Boston, Newark and Baltimore; that is £399 less than the corresponding fares on British Airways.

In the economy class the single fare will be £135 at high season, £125 less than on Sir Freddie Laker's Skyrail, and £112 in the low season, 216 less than Skytrain.

For an introductory period between June 1 and 18 World Airways will offer a single fare of £89, and a round-trip fare of £189 will be available until June 20 for passengers who book before June 18.

World Airways calls its first-class service "superfribs". Its PC 10 airliners on the route will be fitted with 28 seats in

that class, and passengers will be offered special check-in facilities, menus, cocktails and wines.

The airline received permission to begin a daily scheduled service as part of the Bermuda-HI air services agreement between Britain and the United States which opens a number of new "gateaway" cities in the airlines of both countries. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in London has yet to approve its fare structure.

Holiday spending: The CAA said yesterday that total spending by Britons on package holidays by air abroad is expected to reach £1,300m this year, more than twice 1978's £574m.

The authority had authorized air travel organizers to offer more than £1 million air holidays in 1980. There has been an increase of nearly a million holidays a year for the past three years.

The biggest operator this year is Thomson Travel, with 796,000 seats, with Silver Wings Surface Arrangements second with 458,000.

Private beds 'cut NHS waiting lists'

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Private hospitals could help to cut the waiting lists in the National Health Service. Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services said yesterday.

Opening St Edmunds Nursing Home, at Bury St Edmunds, a 50-bed hospital built by community effort, Mr Jenkins said that the new hospital would mean that patients seeking treatment at, for instance, West Suffolk Hospital could be admitted sooner because same patients would go to the new hospital.

In Britain the private sector provides something like 55,000 beds in hospitals and private nursing homes. The NHS would find it increasingly difficult to have to cope with that additional load if the private sector no longer existed.

"In my view, it was always wrong to try to divide the private sector from the NHS; that policy would have set in a kind of 'medical apartheid'."

Egg producers 'threatened by EEC imports'

Egg producers in Britain face a bleak future with rising competition from EEC imports and lower profits because of falling prices. In a report published yesterday, one of the main reasons for concern is over-production by other EEC countries with "total disregard for the market".

The number of new chicks in the EEC in the last quarter of last year was 2.5 per cent more than in 1978, and the figure for January, January and February showed an increase of 3 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively in 1979.

The Egg Authority said the rising numbers indicated increased egg supplies this autumn and winter and into 1981, with lower prices. In February the United Kingdom was the only EEC country not to have an increase over its 1972 level.

New productions at the National

The company of the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, is to appear at the National Theatre's Cottesloe studio from July 10 to 21 in the British premiere of *A Lesson from Aloes*, by Athol Fugard, the South African playwright.

Another new production, *The Pleasure Man*, by Bernard Pomerance, about a man who was a freak show exhibit in Victorian London, is to open at the National's Lyttelton Theatre on July 15.

Scientologist wins plea against entry ban

By David Nicholson-Lord

A ruling against the Home Office by an immigration appeals adjudicator was yesterday greeted by the Church of Scientology as an important victory in its campaign to secure the lifting of the 12-year-old ban on foreign members of the church from entering Britain.

In what is thought to be the first such case successfully contested by the church, the adjudicator ruled against the refusal of a Gatwick airport immigration officer last September to grant entry to Baroness Edith von Thungen Reichenbach, a German member of the church.

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A study in contrasts: adjoining posters on a billboard caught the eye of Mr Daniel Samuel, a reader of "The Times" and amateur photographer, this week in Fulham, London, where he lives.

Mr Jack Lynch bows out quietly

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Mr Jack Lynch, the most popular politician in the Republic of Ireland, is leaving politics. In typically unostentatious style, he announced yesterday that having represented Cork for 32 years he would not be seeking re-election.

He gave up the premiership in December after a troublesome year. But despite his explanations, the real reason for his resignation never properly emerged. Some say he is not well; others think he was outmanoeuvred by the emergent Haughey faction that began to dominate the backbenches last year.

He had been leader of Fianna Fail, the most nationalistic of the bigger Irish political parties, for 13 years and he probably carried greater popular appeal than any Irish politician since Daniel O'Connell. As Mr Garret Fitzgerald, Fine Gael's best asset, so Mr Lynch was Fianna Fail's.

Mr Lynch's stated reason for leaving politics is that he wants to make way for a younger man in the rapidly changing conditions the country faces in the next decade. He said he had

in any event made up his mind some time ago to stand down.

He is 63. He manoeuvred his way into the leadership as a compromise candidate between Mr Charles Haughey and another reputed right-winger, Mr George Colley. In 1970 he came to dismiss Mr Haughey, who 10 years afterwards ironically succeeded him as Taoiseach. Despite the tactical farce, Mr Lynch must privately be appalled.

Mr Lynch's genial, earthy appeal appeals much cutting and guile. He succeeded where almost nobody expected, in almost raising the party away from a purist interpretation of the 1975 policy statement seeking a British declaration of withdrawal from Northern Ireland.

But he was in his final moments, disastrously gullible. After the Monday老人 already last year had concluded a secret security deal with the British Government, details of which the Dail could not obtain but which the Washington Press Club in a grueling press conference, did.

Miss Sile de Valera, granddaughter of the party's founder, who is positively ecstatic about Mr Haughey, was brushed aside by Mr Lynch when she was pushed into the front line of the fracas that followed Mr Lynch's return from America.

But the mud stuck: Mr Lynch had secretly permitted British helicopters into Irish air space.

Much of the heat has gone out of the issue, and the deal remains intact under Mr Haughey.

But Mr Lynch paid dearly for it, particularly as he was almost simultaneously with a humiliating election defeat.

He has come to the leadership, even in the minds of most of those who selected him, as a character pending the acceptance of a real statesman.

Mr Lynch did not see it that way and upset all expectations by winning the 1969 election and holding control during the only affair of the 1970 arms trial, in which Mr Haughey and others were acquitted of conspiring to import weapons.

Mr Lynch was solid rather than brilliant, a safe and sturdy riding on the back of history. It is sad that he is going in such a manner; the man who bridged division had become a source of it by his very presence on the backbenches under the leadership of a bitter internecine rival.

Judgment later in race case over sale of house

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A case in which two neighbours in a good residential area were alleged to have attempted to induce a couple not to sell their house to Asians represented "an ever present social problem", it was said at Birmingham County Court yesterday.

Mr Peter Sussman, counsel for the Commission for Racial Equality, said the action involving alleged incidents 15 months ago should not be regarded as past and gone; it was not a trivial case and it was important that the law should be enforced.

Judgment was reserved on the commission's claim for a declaration of a breach of the Race Relations Act by Mr Samuel Lloyd and Mrs Mary Sabin, both of Southcote Road, Redditch, Hereford and Worcester. An injunction was also sought to restrain them from similar acts in future.

It had been alleged that Mr Albert Marsh, a lecturer in Industrial Relations at Redditch College of Further Education, and his wife, a science teacher, had been "put under pressure" by the defendants not to sell their house to an Asian. It was one of seven properties in a cul-de-sac.

Mr and Mrs Marsh now live at Alesbury, Warwickshire. They sold the house last February for the asking price of £36,000 to a white man.

Mrs Marsh said in evidence that she had been in touch with the commission after the defendants questioned whether the house was being sold to Asians. She agreed that at the end she and her husband had taken a decision based purely on financial considerations.

Mr Lloyd, an engineer, said he had not been on friendly terms with the Marshes. There had been disagreements and they had nothing to do with each other.

Answering his counsel, Mr Anthony Hughes, he said he became aware of an Asian family.

Train dispute ends

Train services from Glasgow were getting back to normal yesterday after the settlement of a dispute arising from the TUC day of action on Wednesday.

The number of new chicks in the EEC in the last quarter of last year was 2.5 per cent more than in 1978, and the figure for January, January and February showed an increase of 3 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively in 1979.

The Egg Authority said the rising numbers indicated increased egg supplies this autumn and winter and into 1981, with lower prices. In February the United Kingdom was the only EEC country not to have an increase over its 1972 level.

New productions at the National

The company of the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, is to appear at the National Theatre's Cottesloe studio from July 10 to 21 in the British premiere of *A Lesson from Aloes*, by Athol Fugard, the South African playwright.

Another new production, *The Pleasure Man*, by Bernard Pomerance, about a man who was a freak show exhibit in Victorian London, is to open at the National's Lyttelton Theatre on July 15.

Judges and counsel asked to speed up long trials

By Marcel Berlin

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, has called for the cooperation of judges and barristers in a comprehensive plan to reduce delays in lengthy fraud and other complicated criminal cases.

Addressing the Central Criminal Court, Journalists Association on Thursday, Sir Michael said that he had asked prosecutors in the Central Criminal Court to put in the dock only the real villains, and not to include criminals on the fringe. Each additional defendant probably adds two weeks to the hearing," he said.

"I think we are inclined to put too many defendants in the dock. The fringe men, whose guilt by comparison with the real fraudsters would seem to be quite small, are rarely sent to prison. Often they have no means and the state pays twice over, in prosecuting and defending."

Sir Michael said that barristers and judges should play their part in making trials shorter. Cross-examination should be precise and well prepared, with a purpose in mind, he said. "Counsel's speeches seem on occasion to be of such enormous length that I cannot believe that the jury can concentrate and absorb all the wisdom that is directed to it."

On judges, Sir Michael said that he doubted whether a summing up occupying seven or eight days really helped the jury to reach a verdict. Some judges seemed to allow counsel to put the same question time after time or to permit a vague inquiry where the cross-examination was leading.

The longer the trial, Sir Michael said, the greater the opportunity for something to go wrong, such as a juror becoming ill or being "nobbed". That might mean that after weeks of trial the case had to be started again at enormous public expense.

The Attorney General clearly had in mind the recent abandonment, because of alleged interference with jurors, of a fraud case involving seven defendants which had lasted seven months and cost an estimated £1,230,000, it public funds.

Sir Michael also urged that the criminal courts should sit for a full day whenever possible. At the Central Criminal Court, for example, 10 minutes lost in each court amounted to a full court day sacrificed.

BMA calls for tobacco advertising ban

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

The British Medical Association yesterday called for a total ban on tobacco advertising because of what it said was the tobacco industry's failure to abide by its voluntary agreement.

Asked in cross-examination why he could not say the education, religion or culture of the Asians who might enter his door, he replied: "Because I have experienced what they were like. I did not want to go through that experience again."

As he was leaving, he was asked if he had been "put under pressure" if he was to sell to whites only. He replied: "I would not give you a free thinking, and that is being racist, because she had used the word white in her question."

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Buildings decaying in town 'that organized its own blitz'

By Martin Buckery

Trust wants to help to restore civic pride in the town.

It argues that Halifax is still outstanding among Britain's industrial towns and that its preservation ought to be treated with as much seriousness as that of Chester or York.

While many fine buildings remain, the committee is dismayed by the number under threat of demolition, and is worried that the redevelopment that has taken place has provided little to enrich the lives of people of Halifax.

The report points out that Halifax suffered relatively little damage during the Second World War, but that, since 1945, under the banner of progress, the town has organized its own blitz. Halifax is now full of waste land, empty and decaying old buildings and insufficient new ones.

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SEAS

cuts
ban boat
rivals
trickle

David Cross
London, May 16
President Carter's latest
order to halt the flotilla of
boats bringing Cuban
refugees to the United States
seems today to be having
scattered effects.

United States Coast
Guard officials said that since
yesterday morning, 100 vessels
had been seized, and
captains warned that they
would be reduced to a trickle.

They are, however, thought
to be some 1,000 boats in Macel-
lour, Cuba, that have been
travelling for several days to
seek refugees.

Yesterday, customs officials
began impounding boats arriving
at Key West with more
than 100 vessels, so far been
seized and captains warned that they
will be fined and other penal

new arrivals have brought
nearly 50,000 the total num-
ber of Cuban refugees who have
arrived in the United States since
the operation began nearly
a month ago.

President Castro of Cuba,
no signs of responding
to President Carter's request
that Cuban refugees should
be interviewed in Cuba so that
they can enter the United States legally.

A leading
in the Cuban newspaper
yesterday said that
is would do nothing to
the boats.

up to seize plane
of the boat captains
arrived yesterday at Key
said Cuban officials would
them leave Mariel with
refugees. One of them said
as forced to take 180
is on board for the trip
teen Cuban refugees
to Costa Rica from
is on freedom flights tried

to seize a Pan American World
Airways jet liner yesterday
in an attempt to be flown to
the United States.

But two hours after the refugees
seized the Boeing 707 at
San Jose's international airport,
they walked off the aircraft
peacefully because the authorities
threatened to use force.

Pan Am officials in New York
said there were no crew or pas-

sengers on board at the time.—
UPI.

British haven sought: The
Foreign Office said in London
that about 35 Cubans had
applied for entry visas either

individually or on behalf of
families to the British Embassy
in Havana. British officials ex-
pect that very few of the

Cubans will be allowed to settle
in Britain.

ew Ugandan leaders in
anzania for talks

Charles Harrison
hi, May 16

A coup in Uganda has
in a new leadership
undecided on many
of its policies. There
no planning of the next
when members of the
Commission of the
Uganda National Libera-
Front, led by Mr Paulo
Mwanga, the Labour Minister,
ed to oust President
Mr Muwanga and his
isues have still to an-
a new list of ministers.

Binisa remained today
State House at Entebbe and
was no indication of his
plans. He sent two
to Dar es Salaam earlier,
week to ask President
of Tanzania to reverse
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tries, including Britain, are un-
willing to become involved in
an operation of this kind. But
the new situation created by
the coup could make them re-
consider their position.

Uganda's National Consulta-
tive Council, the interim parlia-
ment of 127 members, has been
summoned by the Military Com-
mission to meet on Thursday.
The commission wants it to
approve the measures already
taken, in effect, to endorse and
legalize the coup.

Mr Edward Rugumayo, the
chairman of the council, was in
Tanzania at the time of the
coup and has so far refused to
return to Uganda. He objects to
the council being asked to legal-
ize the coup and says he will
not return to Kampala for the
coup.

Portraits of the Queen, Queen
Victoria, Edward VII, Queen
Alexandra and one of George
V and Queen Mary dominated
the dining room.

Zimbabwe, now an independent
republic, is a member of the
Commonwealth but links
with the colonial past are
rapidly being severed.

Meanwhile, Mr Justice Field-
send, a British-born former
judge of the Rhodesian High
Court who resigned because of
UDI, has been appointed Chief
Judge of Zimbabwe. He suc-
ceeds Mr Justice MacDonald
who retired last month.

In Uganda life is outwardly
normal, but there is still a tense
and uncertain atmosphere in
the capital.

Mr Muwanga denied that the
coup had been launched to
restore to power Dr Milton
Obote, the former Ugandan
President who has been in exile
in Tanzania since 1971.

ink robber
ks for
ess coverage

Paulo, May 16.—A man
said he needed money be-
he had just lost his job
into the offices of
stado de Sao Paulo and said
intended to rob a bank. He
if the paper would be
rested in covering the hold-

ie newspaper said it re-
led the man as "mentally
alanced" but sent a re-
er and a photographer to
him anyway.

ie man entered a bank and
the manager a note saying
had two hand grenades.
ive minutes later he walked
with £20,000 worth of
ian currency. Although
newspaper alerted police
the robbery the robber
a taxi and escaped.—AP.

More dollars flowing to Provisional IRA

Michael Leapman
York, May 16

he amount of financial help
to the Provisional IRA
sympathizers in the
United States almost doubled
the six months up to the end
January. Figures given in
United States Department
of State by the Northern Aid
minister (Naid) show that
\$140,000 (about £65,000)
the period, compared with
\$50 in the previous six
months.

He said that one reason for
the increase could be what he
saw as the continued mislead-
ing reporting about Northern
Ireland in the American press.
"We are very concerned at the
present situation of Northern
Ireland and the people in the
United States as one of a population
being subjected against their
will."

Meanwhile in two cases soon
to come to trial in New York
and North Carolina the Justice
Department believes it can
show links between America
and guns used in terrorist
activities.

Several court cases are in
progress concerning Naid and
the supply of weapons to
Northern Ireland. The Justice
Department is bringing an
action trying to get Naid to
state specifically that it is an
agent for the Provisional IRA.
which has declined to do.

However, he said that a
decision would have to be
made within a few months.
With Mr Tip O'Neill, the
Speaker of the House of
Representatives, firmly op-
posed to the sale, and with a
presidential election in the
offing, it is thought unlikely
that the request will be granted.

So much American opinion
is understandably rooted in the

Quebec poll
shows most
will reject
separatism

From Patrick Brogan
Montreal, May 16

The latest public opinion poll
published today shows that
Quebec will reject the proposed
"sovereignty association" in
Tuesday's referendum by 49
per cent to 37 per cent.

The battle now is for a
majority among the French
speaking population for the
proposal.

Mr René Lévesque, the
Quebec Premier, and his Parti
Québécois will still claim
victory if they win a majority
of French votes, even if losing
the referendum itself.

About 18 per cent of the
population is non-French and is
expected to vote by an over-
whelming majority against the
proposal to separate Quebec
from the Canadian Federation.

Mr Claude Ryan, leader of the
Quebec Liberals, believes that
there is an excellent chance of
winning a majority "no" to
the proposal among the French.
Clearly the larger the victory
for the "no" votes the longer
it will be before Parti Qué-
becois tries again.

If the party is defeated badly
next Tuesday, Mr Lévesque may
have to call new elections. He
won power in 1976 and has said
that he would not wish to con-
tinue as Premier if he lost the
referendum.

However, today's poll suggests
that the Parti Québécois would
keep power if an election were
held today, even though it
would lose the referendum.

Mr Lévesque continues to
campaign energetically. He
attacked Mr Pierre Trudeau,
the Federal Prime Minister,
last night for his promises of
constitutional reform, arguing
that Mr Trudeau had been in
power for most of the past 12
years and had yet to produce
a new constitution.

Mr Lévesque and other mem-
bers of his party have reverted
to the most basic political argu-
ment that to be French means
voting "yes".

The poll, published in *Devoir*,
shows that a majority of young
French Quebecers, and a majority
of men, support voting "yes" and
that a majority of women and those
over 45 support the "no" vote.

No room for
Rhodes
or royalty

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, May 16

troops still in Uganda to move
against the smaller, newly
trained Uganda Army whose
support ensured the success of
the coup.

He considers that a team of
Commonwealth observers should
be set up to enable an election
to be held in Uganda on the
pattern of the recent Zimbabwe
poll. Approaches had already
been made to Commonwealth
countries by President Binisa
for a team of this kind, and he
claimed to have had encouraging
responses from some coun-
tries.

Binisa remained today
at Entebbe and
was no indication of his
plans. He sent two
to Dar es Salaam earlier,
week to ask President
of Tanzania to reverse
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the new situation created by
the coup could make them re-
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Property

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Readers are strongly advised to seek legal advice before parting with any money or signing any agreement to acquire land or property overseas.



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£1000 p.m.

PERSONAL CHOICE



Linda Gruen and Zita Roche in *Genesis and Catastrophe*, the latest of Anglia TV's series *Tales of the Unexpected* (ITV, 9.45).

Nice, for a change, to hear the words of leading playwrights from their own lips and not someone else's. Dennis Potter, author of *Pennies from Heaven* and *Blue Remembered Green*, is the subject of The Levin Interview (BBC 2, 8.30), and David Frayn, whose latest play *Make and Break* has just transferred to the West End, returns to the Ewell East of hisador suburban boyhood in a second showing of *Three Streets in the Country* (BBC 2, 7.35). I don't know how the Levin-Potter encounter will turn out, but I remember the Frayn film. It is a nostalgic piece of great charm, and Mr Frayn, a spiky humorist, keeps a tight rein on the sentimentality in such programmes, ean all too easily get out of hand.

Another repeat tonight, revised and containing new material, is *The Rainhill Story* (BBC 2, 6.00), a documentary about the early rivalry, back in 1829, between the builders of two famous steam engines, the Rocket and the Sans Pareil. The contest, the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway that traced it, will be the subject of anniversary celebrations a week on Monday. Replicas of the steam engines have been built for the occasion, and they will buff and puff their way through the film.

am not qualified to pass judgment on the sporting ability of Harlem Globetrotters (BBC 1, 5.55), but their athleticism is evidently impressive. So far as they are concerned, it is a knuckleball comedy—I have found it impossible to see, because there is an insuperable language barrier between me and me. And, anyway, they move so fast that while I am working out why the spectators are convulsed with laughter, Globetrotters are off again, and half way into another routine. Elsewhere on television tonight, the gavel is a bit thin, but *Tales of the Unexpected* (ITV, 9.45) should be worth listening to on Saturday at the Mill (BBC 1, 10.45), and the *Midnight Movie*, *Cape Fear* (BBC 2, 11.45) should guarantee you a bad night's sleep.

Listen (at 4 am) to a two-hour Capital Radio concert? Muti

ducts the Philharmonic in the *Sibelius Violin Concerto* (with Iman) and the Tchaikovsky *Pathétique*. The whole concert repeated at 6 tomorrow night for the benefit of those who did

watch *Cape Fear*.

My other radio recommendations: the live transmission from New Theatre, Cardiff, of Dvorak's opera *The Jacobin* (Radio 3, 5) and Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, presenting his record in *Desert Island Discs* (Radio 4, 6.15).

PERSONAL CHOICE



David Norden and Mario Adorf in the film *The Tin Drum*: is discussed in *The South Bank Show* (ITV, 10.30).

Monochrome posters showing a pair of spindly legs reminded that last week was Christian Aid Week. Previously we saw a hungry eyes of supplicating children. But, as we are reminded tonight's ambitious documentary *The Politics of Compassion* (BBC 2, 8.45), overseas charities have far more to cope with than aformed limbs and hungry bellies. Political and ethnic strife are dauntingly high, and it takes more than a tidal wave charitable cash to sweep them away.

Nobody who has ever deliberately, and gladly, lost himself in the gently rolling Malvern Hills will want to miss the documentary *Erosion of Grandeur* (BBC 1, 11.25). It's a familiar tale, this conflict of views of conservationists, local folk and visitors. But, if beauty spots like the Malverns are to be saved for future generations of tourists to enjoy and local residents to tract their living from this is the kind of talking that must be permitted to stop... If you had not realized how complex the art of writing film music has become since the days

Hearts and Flowers and the Devil's Gallop, watch the

symphony and composer John Williams (BBC 2, 7.15) whose

score for *Star Wars* was, for my money, the best thing about it.

Brain Friel's play *Faith Healer*, given its first performance in the United States last March, and very favourably viewed, is repeated on Radio 3 (8.00). Norman Rodway plays the errant faith healer whose powers, allied to emotional sadism

and masochistic alcoholism, create general havoc. June Tobin is his wife and Warren Mitchell is the couple's manager. . . .

le British Seafarer, Michael Mason's 26-part nautical pot-pourri, is six weeks old tonight (Radio 4, 10.15) and this episode is about

upset Cook. Some listeners tell me they get confused by all those unlabelled characters. But, surely, it's what is said that matters, not who is saying it. Would we enjoy a Renoir say the as if he happened not to have signed it?

Maggie Norden, whose Set Books series on Capital Radio must we helped many lame-duck "O" and "A" level literary students over the sticks, performs the logical follow-up to today's (00) by getting five chief examiners to sit in front of their microphones and take questions on all subjects from students taking the exams this summer. Apart from actually sitting the exams for them, there does not seem much else that Capital Radio can do for these benighted teenagers.

HAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: STEREO: 'BLACK AND WHITE': REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.00 *Banana Splits*: children's magazine; 9.30 *Champion*, the Wonder Horse: cowboys and Indians; 9.55 *Feeling Great*: Roy Castle and Isla St Clair go swimming; 10.05 *Zorro*: Walt Disney western; 10.30 *Mickey Mouse Club*: cartoons and a western; 10.52 *Weather*.

10.55 *International Golf*: Martin International, from Wentworth. The opening holes.

12.30 pm *Grandstand*: The line-up is: 12.35 *Football Focus*; 1.00 and 4.15 *International Golf*; 1.30, 2.35 *International Rally Sprint* (Mitsubishi); 2.45 *The Masters*: golf from Wembley Arena (see Personal Choice); 2.50 *Flame*: The Long Duel (1967).

British-made North-west Frontier adventure yarn, with Yul Brynner as a rebel leader and Trevor Howard as a British police officer.

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Vast, empty, reasonably priced, and over there

It is called the Icefield Parkway, and if they ever hold a competition to decide on the most beautiful road in the world then it will get my vote. It runs down through the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, from Jasper to Banff—180 miles of spectacular scenery, comfortable hotels and glorious picnic spots. But the best thing about this fast modern road is that it is practically deserted.

So, in a year when the number of British holiday-makers going to the United States is nearing the 1,500,000 mark, the transatlantic air routes look like suffering from their own sort of traffic jam. Canada, and particularly western Canada, is worth thinking about. Air Canada's "Maple Leaf" fares to western gateways such as Edmonton, Alberta, range from about £280 to £330 return this summer, which compares quite well with some of the other much-surcharged "bargain" transatlantic fare offers, and the wide open spaces which await you have to be seen to be believed.

"Late bookers can always find room in Canada," says the Canadian Government Tourist Office. True, it is best to have your accommodation booked in advance (you can do this in London with the major hotel groups, such as Canadian Pacific), and it is probably too late to hire a motor caravan (or "camper") in high season. But there are lots of self-drive hire cars—and even more road. I proved it for myself last summer when I flew to Edmonton and picked up a hired car—the inevitable "Chevy", roomy but under-powered—from the local Holiday offices. It took only a few moments to adjust to driving on the right, and then we were heading west towards the Rockies, three hours away.

The Icefield Parkway is in fact part of a circular tour called the "Alberta Great Circle" which starts and finishes in Edmonton or Calgary. Car hire is cheap and, like hotels, can be booked before leaving home.

An hour out of Edmonton the farmland on either side of the straight, empty road gives way to woodland, then conifer forests. On the horizon the Rockies appear, their white peaks peeping over the horizon like a baby's first teeth.

The first stop is Jasper—but before you reach it you enter Jasper National Park. The Icefield Parkway is extraordinary because it runs, in its entirety, through the Jasper and Banff national parks—a fact which has ensured that it remains unspoilt. Canada's national parks come in sizes ranging from the

merely large to the enormous—but that does not stop them from being lovingly, and rigorously, controlled and cared for.

You are checked into the park, made to promise not to feed the bears (yes, there really are bears—but why anyone should want to feed an animal which could kill you with one swipe of its massive paw is beyond me), then you follow a mountain stream into Jasper itself.

Jasper, which is at the heart of some very beautiful and dramatic countryside, is a popular mountain resort town. It has plenty of fairly basic accommodation of the motel variety. But stay, if you can, in the towering Banff Springs Hotel—stuffed with antiques and boasting some very grand public rooms. You are unlikely to get a room there without booking well in advance but do at least eat there.

Both of these resorts, at the southern end of the Icefield Parkway, have plenty of accommodation and there is lots to see and do. Make the most of it, for beyond Banff the road turns inland for Calgary—a boring spot except during the Calgary Stampede—and north back to Edmonton.

You could cover the circular route in a couple of days, but take a week or so over it, explore a little, and you will get a taste of Canada which too many tourists miss altogether. The Canadian Tourist Office (Canada House, Traquair Square, London, SW1), Air Canada (140-144 Regent Street, London, W1) and Canadian Pacific Hotels (London reservations office 01-930 8852) can help you arrange such a trip at short notice.

In the "most beautiful road" contest that I mentioned, I expect a runner-up to be Italy's Amalfi Drive on the Sorrento peninsula. But the trouble with much of Italy in general, and the Sorrento peninsula in particular, is that summer crowds jam the roads

so that you can't get away.

The Athabasca Glacier, or Columbia Glacier—after which the road is named—plunges down to the 10,000ft summit of Alberta's highest peak. Yet even in this cold corner of Canada the Rockies, unlike many other mountain ranges, never appear hostile or threatening. Nature was showing off a bit when she constructed these mountains; and she is still smiling to herself about it.

So it seemed when, with nobody to say me nay (officialdom is gloriously self-effacing in the park), I sneaked the car up on to one of the icy roads carved out by the Snowcats which run excursions up the glacier. Everything was all right for a few minutes, but then a thick cloud appeared and the car, in impenetrable fog and driving rain,

I edged my way nervously back in the lowest gear I could find, haunted by fears of freezing to death on the glacier and the first major step has been taken

appearing at the bottom in 1,000 years or so. Suddenly I was back on the road, and back in the sunlight. The cloud vanished as I looked back at it and—it is impossible, I know—the mountain appeared to be laughing at itself at the trick it had played.

It befriends another emotion a little farther down the Icefield Parkway, where a cliff-face right beside the road is strewn with tumbling rivulets which make it look for all the world as though it is weeping. It is an odd melancholy sight.

You re-enter the real world at Lake Louise with its fine resort hotels, and the winter sports centre of Banff. Banff is crowned (quite literally) by the towering Banff Springs Hotel—stuffed with antiques and boasting some very grand public rooms. You are unlikely to get a room there without booking well in advance but do at least eat there.

The inactive need not be put off by the hotel's facilities; for nobody is going to mind if you choose to spend your days walking, or even driving, around this region. There is lots to discover—like beautiful Lake Maligne, in its picture-book setting high in the mountains above Jasper, or Maligne Canyon. And in the town itself do not miss a ride on the Jasper Sky Tram, which climbs effortlessly up to the 7,500ft summit of Whistlers Mountain to give bird's-eye views of an unforgettable panoramas.

South from Jasper, the Icefield Parkway leads to Athabasca Falls, where the Sunwapta River plunges through a narrow ravine and then the Athabasca Glacier.

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by the Aigip petrol people who are developing a holiday resort around a tiny bay at Puglia.

Pride of place in the resort must go to the Hotel Faro, which spreads itself languorously over the rocks above the beach. It is up-market and it is not cheap, but for the price of a double room you could hire one of the adjoining self-catering bungalows, which sleep six, and enjoy all the resort's facilities. Ideal for motorising families, perhaps, who would enjoy exploring the neighbouring Forest of Umbria, historic Montemontello with its extraordinary mountain-top church built in a cave, Lucca, and Foggia. But you do not have to take your own car all the way—Altafia (051-329 329) Regent Street, London, W1) have some attractive fly-drive packages, it can also quote for inclusive tours to Puglia.

For non-motorists, travelling via Bari, Apulia, there is room for latecomers.

If the two holidays I have described so far are for a relatively specialist, individual market, and will make a noticeable dent in your wallet, it is fair to add that there are still lots of cheap inclusive holidays available for late bookers. In fact, the rather odd bookings pattern for this summer has left many tour operators in a bit of a quandary; sales were heavy early in the season, but have now tailed off. Travel agents are sure that many cus-

tomers are simply leaving it from overbooking problems in

the past.

Her current "best buy" is probably a one-week holiday in Tenerife, including flights, for £69—but there will be others as the season progresses. It all depends on how many seats we still have empty just before departure", she says. "If we have places still available a week ahead then we reduce prices very heavily. After all, it's better to have some money rather than empty seats." You cannot book Tjæresborg holidays with a travel agent; contact the firm direct at 7-8 Conduit Street, London, W1 (01-495 8676).

So latecomers, particularly those who are not too particular about exactly where they go, may be able to pick up some real price bargains this year. But that has often been the case in late season in recent years, and it could encourage people to book their holidays late. So other operators have tackled the problem a different way—by extending the length of holidays without increasing the price.

Thomas Cook, for example, are offering three weeks for the price of two on early holidays to destinations which include Majorca, Corfu and Tenerife.

Two weeks for the price of one are offered by Blue Sky, the true operating company of British Caledonia. The company expect to have late bookings available to Crete, the

Greek mainland, Madeira and Tenerife this month, and on Spain's Costa Blanca in June. Marketing director Edward Davies expects to be able to place late-bookers throughout the summer in Spain, Portugal, the Balearics and Italy, and says: "If you go to a travel agent with two or three options in mind on the destination, and are fairly flexible, you should be able to pick up a real bargain."

My best Blue Sky bargain, however, would be a fly-drive holiday in the United States. The opening of British Caledonia's new direct service from Gatwick to Atlanta on June 25 should be their existing Houston service should mean plenty of room on the flights at first, and there is always room to breathe in the Deep South. Inclusive fly-drive prices to Atlanta start at only £277 for a week.

Another way to dodge the crowds in America this summer would be to cruise the Caribbean on Chandris' British Isles, and couple this with a visit to Miami, Disneyworld and Cape Kennedy. Prices for the 18-day inclusive trip—with a week cruising and nine nights in an hotel—start at £518.

Thomson Holidays, too, report room to spare on their Caribbean holidays this summer (prices start at about £350 for two weeks in Barbados).

For sheer adventure, try Blue Sky's South American ventures—they have one 19-day jungle jolly, including five days in the fascinating Galapagos islands, which costs from £1,150 and which they say is for "pioneer spirits—it is not exactly hot and cold running water in every room". Blue Sky expect to be able to accommodate—if that is the right word—latecomers on that trip.

A more peaceful holiday might be a comfortable self-catering villa in the sun, and Moon (32 High Street, Peterfield, Hants) have big price cuts for late bookers at their properties in Crete (due, this time, to Crete's relatively recent appearance in the self-catering market), Ibiza, Majorca and Menorca. Forget about those traditional self-catering sun-spots, Malta and the Algarve—they are full.

Greek specialists Olympic Holidays (01-727 8050) are making a special bid for late-bookers with the help of a computerized reservations system called, predictably enough, "Eureka". If you have left it late, and want to get on to a Greek island, they are the answer. Another answer, of course, should be the very cheap fares offered by many major inclusive holiday firms (let us be honest about it) to fill up their flights. These heavily undercut scheduled fares, but most dates are fully booked before the daffodils are even out. If you are stuck, try Switzerland—which in summer rarely gets full (Falcon Leisure, 360 Fulham Road, London,

SW10; 01-351 2191, flights from £69).

Don't forget that, if you not find an inclusive to suit you, you can make up your own. Most lines will cooperate and are specialist firms like travel (22 Hans Place, LS1 SW1; 01-589 5161). "We do anything, anywhere, time," say Supertravel—that includes last-minute flights to faraway places.

Still with an eye on easter holidays, there should plenty of room on the Channel car ferries, again summer, except at peak-ends, for the introduction new ships, services and I appears to have a demand.

But that does not make roads any emptier, either or across the Channel. So does one escape that perhaps

One answer is to a comparatively little routes—perhaps fairly close home. I found a number such routes last Augu a country where midsum traffic is always a pro Scotland.

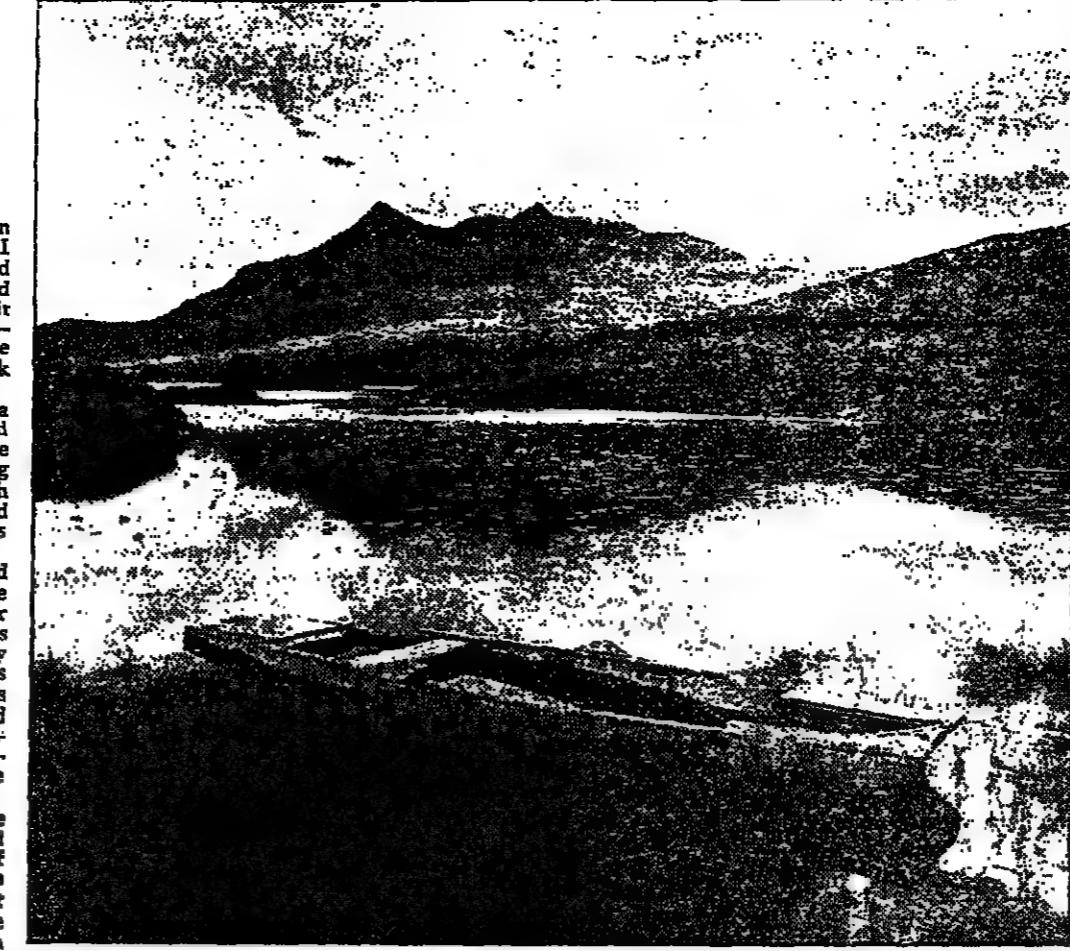
Starting from the west of Ulswallop, I made three-day self-drive tour through the Outer Hebrides of Lewis, E North Uist, Benbecula South Uist and could a count on two hands number of other cars in route.

The tour, organized by Donald MacBrayne (Ferryman, Gourock), costs for two people, and inc overnight accommodation their ferries and meals applicable. The schedule planned so that link up with the various island ferries, and you are in Oban. A £40 extension you on to Islay, Jura, and the long Kintyre peninsula.

Although they seem aimed principally at overseas visitors, these tours are for British motorists too. Outer Hebrides are fascinatingly different, and in some of the most dramatic least-known sights in Britain such as the Standing Stones of Callanish on Lewis (Scot Stonehenge, where the great sheep still outnumber visitors), North Uist's seascapes, or Benbecula's airport on the beach.

If last summer is anything go by, Caledonian MacBrayne are unlikely to be two away customers even August. Twelve of us took trip, and on one car ferried actually outnumbered other passengers. Like Scotland has plenty of for holidaymakers—late and all. It is just a matter knowing where to look.

Robin M



The Cuillin Hills, Isle of Skye.

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Travel

Toad's progress along a road called Bruce

long back on any foreign key, one tends to remember many incongruities those events and incidents which usually related afterwards the preface: "You'll believe this, but . . . So unless right away that there more than a touch of Monty on about driving along an Australian road named Bruce, discovering, on arrival at destination, that the road meeting ("The social fun night of the entire week") been cancelled because of overcast.

Bruce Highway can be verified, because you can find it the map of Queensland, running as highway number along the coast from Brisbane, north to Cairns. It was a road which brought us to spearhead, and the resort of Airlie Beach, and at Airlie that the toad race never was scheduled.

Bernie Katchor told me why power cars made racing impossible, for I had got it firmly in my mind that there would be no problem, as the cars were not electrically powered. Bernie, who with his wife Yvonne owns and runs a motel at which we were staying, pointed out that no one meant no lights, and no one meant you could not see the roads were going, we alone which one of the so-and-so's had won.

Enough of toads, and general road chatter. But it must have been great even because I came home in somebody else's shirt. I dimly al swanning mine for a T-shirt bearing the announcement that Air Whitsunday had indeed at the Great Barrier Reef and I saw it as Captain Cook could never have seen it—from 1,000ft above the surface of the glittering blue Pacific. There the last height and landed on the sea, racing to where a small glass-bottomed boat was moored. This, too, was part of the Air Whitsunday had done nothing of kind, but I rectified the

omission next day when one of their amphibians took me from the Shute Harbour airstrip right out to the magnificent reef.

Air Whitsunday takes its name from the stretch of water between the mainland and the islands hereabouts, the Whitsunday Passage, named for the very day in 1770 when Captain Cook sailed there and discovered it. He found something else, too. "To my mortification, I discovered a reef of rocks extending in a line north west and south east, farther than I could see, on which the sea broke very high . . ."

We went into Airlie Beach anyway, from our motel at Shute Harbour, and were obliged to spend road racing time in a bar which seemed to be full of very large and very suntanned people, many of whom sported beards. We talked about toads, among other things, and I discovered that they were introduced to keep down particular beetles that infest the sugar cane. Experiments showed that the toads only ate the male beetles and only after the larvae had been feminized, so as a pest control measure they were useless. However, some of them escaped from a laboratory and Queensland has toads whether Queensland wants them or not.

Remembering the correspondence that followed my comments in this column on the amphibious abilities of camels, I do not vouch for the accuracy of this story.

This was the Great Barrier Reef and I saw it as Captain Cook could never have seen it—from 1,000ft above the surface of the glittering blue Pacific. There the last height and landed on the sea, racing to where a small glass-bottomed boat was moored. This, too, was part of the Air Whitsunday had done nothing of kind, but I rectified the

fleet and our pilot, Kevin Bowe, was equally at home at those controls, pointing out the various types of coral that could be seen in the clear water, and the colourful fish that darted and drifted among the rocks.

The reef has no equal and is in fact the largest structure on the face of the globe to have been created by living organisms. Indeed, it is still living and being constructed by the billions of polyps that live and feed and grow beneath the waves. On the surface, perhaps not so striking as one expects, although it is fascinating to walk carefully across its exposed parts and learn of the life it contains.

It covers 100,000 square miles and has to be seen to be believed. Certainly it is well worth making the journey to that part of the coast for the experience of the reef alone, although there are several islands on which hotels have been built, and many more ways of spending one's holiday time in that area.

We stayed, as I mentioned, at Shute Harbour, a few miles from Airlie Beach. It is the centre of nautical activity with ferry services to and between a number of holiday islands, and dozens of yachts for hire, either self-sailing or with a crew.

I have some small experience of sailing in the eastern Mediterranean and around the Greek islands, as well as off some Caribbean islands—in crewed vessels—but would defer in this respect to the experience of some of my companions on this particular trip. All confirmed my impression that the Queensland sailing waters are superb and easily stand comparison with others we had experienced.

It was at Whitsunday Village, at the end of our visit to Airlie Beach, that I spotted a

and, of course, they are virtually deserted, although I imagine that this state of affairs will not last for much longer.

The Queensland coast and islands are already popular with Australians themselves and a number of inclusive holidays are available there. Such holidays may be purchased here in Britain as "add ons" to the main Australian visit, or their purchase may be left until one's arrival in Australia itself. Of these islands I visited South Molle, Lindeman Island and Hayman Island, each of which provides first-class accommodation and facilities for water sports and other leisure activities.

In Airlie Beach itself are small hotels, apartments and a couple of "holiday village" complexes, mainly aimed at those who prefer self-catering, although a dining room as well as local restaurants provide alternatives to doing things for yourself. Of the local restaurants, I particularly recall La Perouse where the food was well prepared and presented, the portions over generous (as they always seem to be in Australia) and I encountered Moreton Bay Bugs, a variety of shellfish which is highly regarded locally.

Of the holiday villages I visited Wandering's Paradise and Whitsunday Village and can best describe their accommodation as ranging from "simple but adequate" to "well designed and well furnished". What you pay depends on what you pay, although this is difficult to work out in the case of Whitsunday Village whose brochure describes the accommodation choice as "run of house".

It was at Whitsunday Village, at the end of our visit to Airlie Beach, that I spotted a

tal and attractive girl dancing with vigour in the establishment's bar-cum-discotheque, and felt sure I had met her somewhere before. I said as much to my companion (not wishing to use such a hakeneyed "line" on the lady herself) and he confirmed that he had indeed met. I still could not remember when or where, until my companion pointed out to me that the shirt she was wearing used to be mine.

The flavour of the Queensland coast resorts and the islands hereabouts is very much the flavour of the Caribbean—they are, after all, tropical locations—and one's holiday pursuits are much the same. For anyone interested in sailing the region is a thorough delight. With one or two exceptions, the hotels cannot be compared to those one finds in the Caribbean—the absence, perhaps, of any north American influence—but I found them comfortable and the service was good.

I am sure it will not be long

before they are "discovered" by many more holidaymakers from Europe, perhaps those who travel to Australia to visit families or friends in the first place, but stay on to make a proper job of seeing that fascinating continent.

Perhaps this will change as more Britons travel on holiday to Australia.

Two weeks ago I mentioned the lower air fares and the new travel planning guide produced by the Australian Tourism Commission (49 Old Bond Street, London, W1X 4PL). A travel agent should be able to tell you of the various tour companies offering holidays there and of these I would mention some recent brochures from Thomas Cook and Exchange Travel.

John Carter



Photograph by Christine Osborne

Travel extra

How not to get Delhi belly

Today travellers who settle a package tour to one of coast resorts in Spain or Yugoslavia are unlikely to fall victim to any medical disorder more serious than sunburn.

Those who go farther afield, however, beware. The exotic locations offered by travel agents may provide sun and relaxation—but they seldom provide sanitization to European standards. Delhi belly, intestinal's revenge, and the like two-step: the names are familiar to generations of tourists to India, Mexico, and South America and bear witness it as many as 40 per cent of tourists to these countries have

an attack of diarrhoeal illness during their stay.

At one time these intestinal upsets were attributed to highly spiced food and an excess of alcohol—both of which may be contributory factors. The reality is more prosaic: almost all the attacks are due simply to infection with intestinal bacteria to which the local inhabitants have acquired immunity. These bacteria (technically termed enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*) are rarely found in Europe and the United States: they flourish in countries with poor sanitation and poor standards of personal hygiene.

The illness caused by coliform bacteria is rarely severe: most adults are unwell for only a day or two, but children may be more severely affected. Even so, a few days illness may spoil a brief two-week vacation; and in the case of travelling sportsmen, politicians, or businessmen even minor upset may have disastrous repercussions.

What precautions can be taken? Firstly, as the oldtimers in the British colonial service knew, the risks can be kept to a minimum by eating and drinking sensibly. Avoid any food or drink that may be contaminated—raw vegetables, salads, unwashed fruit, and unpasteurized milk. Eat only in hotels and restaurants which maintain high standards of hygiene. Do not

assume that tap water is necessarily safe (a recent outbreak of diarrhoea in a small town in the Rocky Mountains was traced to pollution of the reservoir by beavers).

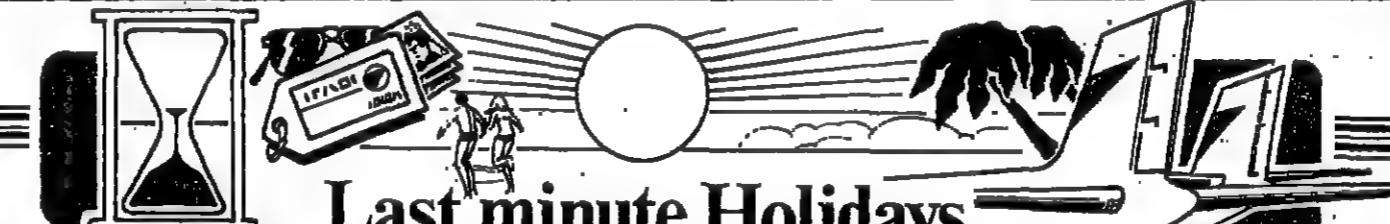
What about antibiotics? Certainly they will protect, and British doctors mostly rely on mixtures of an antibiotic such as streptomycin and a sulphonamide. Tablets taken three times a day substantially reduce the chances of illness. Anyone who believes that antibiotics should not be used in this way (for fear of promoting resistance among bacteria) may prefer to rely on a compound such as subsalicylate bismuth, recently shown to be highly effective in American students travelling in Mexico.

Finally, any article on the medical hazards of travel must mention malaria—a serious risk for anyone travelling to Africa, Asia, and South America. Preventive treatment is essential, and tourists should ask their doctors for a prescription for chloroquine or proguanil. Such treatment is not fussy overprotectiveness: hundreds of British travellers abroad contract malaria each year, often developing symptoms only on their return home, and a few die. So take the tablets, and stay healthy.

Dr Tony Smith

Medical Correspondent

The island of South Molle, off the Queensland coast

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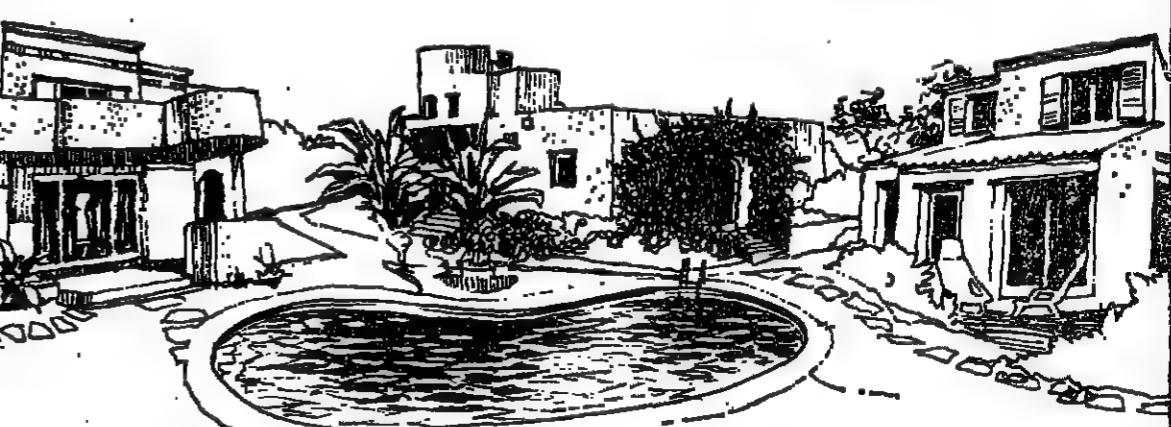
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LEAD FROM ISLAMABAD?

the Islamic foreign ministers' conference which opens in Islamabad today is likely to be dominated by the issue of Afghanistan, even though some of the participants would prefer focus on other issues such as the future of Jerusalem or the entry of American military into Iran or the Gulf. The Russians themselves have made clear that Afghanistan will head the agenda, by getting their Iranian protege, Mr Babrak Karmal, to put forward his proposals for a political settlement three days before the conference.

That suggests that the Russians are confident that the atmosphere in this regular conference will be less unfavourable than that of the special conference held in January in immediate aftermath of their invasion. In that they are probably right. Although they are nearer to pacifying Afghanistan itself, the enormity of their invasion has been partially offset by events elsewhere in the Muslim world. The Americans have antagonized Pakistan in an unconvincing offer of a tacitly presented; have irritated the Arabs by backtracking on their condemnation of Israeli policies in the occupied territories out of deference to US voters; and have alarmed the entire region by their erratic behaviour towards Iran, Iraq and Libya have come to blows, accusing each other of collusion with terrorism, and Britain has lost the feelings of the Saudi royal family.

Meanwhile, righteous indignation about the Soviet invasion has partially given way to sober realization of the difficulty of doing anything effective about it. The Muslim world is divided, even those who are disturbed at what they see as an inadequate western response to Soviet aggression, and those who use America of artificially creating the crisis in an attempt to scare the Muslims into accepting western protection. And so two camps are dangerously

near finding common ground on the proposition that the Muslim world will have to learn to live with a Soviet-dominated Afghanistan whether it likes it or not.

Actually the Muslim world and the West are agreed in disliking the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and wanting to see the Soviet troops withdrawn as soon as possible, while each is divided within itself about the right method of achieving that goal, about whether it can be achieved at all, and about what price would be worth paying if it could.

Broadly speaking there are two possible approaches. Either one can take the view that the Russians will only leave Afghanistan if the military and political costs of remaining there are made unacceptably high, or one can take the view that they are keeping troops there only because there is a war going on, and that the quickest way to get them out is to negotiate a political settlement enabling Mr Karmal or his successor to feel secure enough to send them home. The second approach is clearly the one invited by Mr Karmal himself. Its drawbacks are obvious enough: it requires outside states to take responsibility for disarming the Afghan Muslim resistance, it offers no guarantee that the Russians would actually withdraw, and, even if they do, it effectively legitimizes their intervention and implicitly entitles them to intervene again whenever Mr Karmal gets into trouble.

The first approach, by contrast, implies treating the Afghan war as a classic "war of liberation", like those of Algeria, Vietnam, Zimbabwe etc. We would in effect be backing the Afghan mujahidin to win and we should have to be prepared to supply them with weapons. But such wars can be fought successfully only with the use of neighbouring territories as bases or at least as channels of supply, and, before giving up, the occupying power or colonial regime will usually be prepared to carry the war into those territories. The bigger the power, the less likely it is to

accept territorial limits which are not recognized by its adversaries. In short, if we follow this approach, we are inviting the Russians to treat Pakistan and Iran as the United States treated North Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Pakistanis have already made it quite clear that they do not want to play this role, and it is not very likely (though nothing about Iran is easily predictable just now) that the Iranians will want to play it either. Certainly there is no obvious western interest in provoking Soviet incursions into either state.

The dilemma that the Islamabad conference faces is therefore an unenviable one. Indeed we have no need to envy it, since in essence it is ours too. But the issue concerns the Muslim world more directly than it concerns us, and therefore we are entitled to look to Islamabad for a lead. It is no good us offering help of a type, or towards an objective, which is not the one the Muslims want. Either by agreeing to talk on some terms to Mr Karmal, or by acknowledging recognition and support to the mujahidin, they have to point the way.

Probably the right answer is to do both. One could agree to talk to Mr Karmal, while making it clear that such contacts would be exploratory, would not constitute recognition of his government, and would be designed to lead to a political settlement between him and his Afghan opponents. One could certainly make it clear that only a settlement in which the main Afghan resistance movements participate has any chance of sticking, and that therefore only in the event of such a settlement could anyone consider giving Mr Karmal the kind of guarantees he is looking for. If Mr Karmal agrees to negotiate with the resistance leaders, some pressure could no doubt be put on them to agree to negotiate with him. But if he refuses, as at this stage he most likely will, one would have to be prepared to see the war escalate further, with the unpleasant consequences for all parties that that implies.

ENGINE OF INFLATION

Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons that

Government intends to use the size of the Civil Service from its present level of 600,000 to 630,000 is at present a declaration of intent. We yet know where the cuts will come; nor will the Government know until it completes its negotiations with the unions.

It is obviously right that wages of this kind, which have implications for the careers of the public service, should be discussed with those they act. But it would be reassuring to feel that the Government has a clear idea of where the reductions will come. The rise being carried out by Sir Eric Rayner within Whitehall producing some interesting as for how changes can be made, but in the last analysis implementation of proposals will depend on civil servants themselves.

I believe that the public sector is too large and too privileged one of the beliefs which the Minister clearly shares in many who voted for her in its first year in office.

Government has shown a marked unwillingness to come to terms with the problems of the Civil Service in general and the Civil Service in particular. This is nowhere more apparent than the matter of civil service pay.

The Government inherited a difficult position from the outgoing Labour administration. The large pay settlements for the public sector were already in the pipeline, either through

workings of the Clegg Commission or through the pay research which governs the Civil Service. It would have been uneconomic and unjust to try to go back on agreements already reached which depended on the payment of such settlements. But the Government has gone much further than simply honour existing agreements. It has continued, in some cases, to refer cases to the Clegg Commission and it has no sign that it intends to end the system of pay research which purports to link civil servants' pay to the rest of the economy.

The result has been to permit a series of civil service pay increases which have gravely

damaged the Government's anti-inflationary strategy. The pay bill for central government this year is expected to be twenty-five per cent higher than it was during the past financial year.

It is no good for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to protest that this is in no way inconsistent with the cash limit of fourteen per cent for civil service pay which the Government announced earlier this year. Such a claim, while accurate, merely underlines the ineffectiveness of the cash limit system. For by judicious staging of pay increases, it would be perfectly possible for a Government to make virtually any increase in civil service pay consistent with any cash limit.

By delaying payment until later in the year, the cost to that financial year is reduced. But the higher rates of pay then become the basis for the next round of pay negotiations. In this way huge pay increases could slip undetected through the cash limit net.

The cash limit system is, in any case, not an effective restraint on pay. For as long as the Government remains committed to the principle that the pay of civil servants must be determined by "comparability" with those in the rest of the economy, cash limits have to be set to be broadly consistent with the figures which the Pay Research Unit produces.

Yet the level of pay increases in the economy as a whole is clearly far higher than the country can afford. The Government's strategy for reducing inflation entails growth of the money supply by no more than seven to eleven per cent during the current year, with a progressive decline over the years ahead. That is the true measure of what can be afforded in wage increases without creating a very sharp rise in unemployment. The cash limits on the Government's pay bill ought to be set and genuinely enforced in line with those figures, rather than being set to finance pay increases for which the Government seems unwilling to accept responsibility.

In all its pronouncements, the Government warns industry not to expect money supply to be expanded to accommodate inflationary pay rises. Employers have been warned that they must

and St Paul's have taken years to bring the brink of achievement. They would have a major impact on the historic areas and on the public face of the city. They are labour intensive when there is a desperate shortage of jobs. Housing action areas were beginning to transform the run-down inner suburbs, providing good housing at a fraction of the cost of clearance and new-build.

It seems that all this may now stop because of an unsatisfactory policy of housing cuts. The cost of repairs and restoration will escalate; many historic buildings could be lost altogether.

Meanwhile, almost a million young unemployed are paid to do nothing. Where is the sense?

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY BROWN, Chairman,
Bristol Visual & Environmental
Group,
6 Buckingham Vale,
Clifton,
Bristol.

From Mr Michael Scott
Sir, Your correspondent Mr D. G. Cummins (May 10) has confused a popular and socially responsible mode of transport with the loutish behaviour of those who may (or may not) be found near such objects. He suggests that motor-cycles, "biggest bawler instrument of all", should be confiscated by police to avoid Bank holiday bawlers.

This is worse than sophistry—it is idiocy. Motorcycles reduce traffic congestion: a familiar thief of Bank holiday pleasure. They also consume less fossil fuel than other modes of road transport.

The typewriter is in the wrong hands, inflicting much more social damage. I suggest Mr Cummins be confounded.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SCOTT,
Editor of Superbikes, Link House,
Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9,
Maynooth College, Co. Kildare.

and St Paul's have taken years to bring the brink of achievement. They would have a major impact on the historic areas and on the public face of the city. They are labour intensive when there is a desperate shortage of jobs. Housing action areas were beginning to transform the run-down inner suburbs, providing good housing at a fraction of the cost of clearance and new-build.

Rhodesia shadow on Iran sanctions

From Mr John Bloch

Sir, For 14 years the company of which I am chairman dutifully refrained from relations with our associates in Rhodesia. Now I understand that, in the cause of some process of reconciliation, no action is to be taken against those companies who flagrantly, and profitably, contravene the sanctions regulations.

Almost at the same time British businesses are now to be instructed to observe sanctions against Iran, in a quarrel which will no doubt be resolved in less than 14 years with the subsequent reconciliation.

In the light of the Rhodesian experience would companies be naive in the point of dereliction of their functions if they scrupulously observed these new regulations?

(Incidentally, my company has no trade connections with Iran.)

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BLOCH,
Little Orchard,
Steep,
Petersfield, Hampshire.

The public interest

From Mr John Gau and others
Sir, We wish to record our wholehearted agreement with your leading article of May 8, in which you describe the Appeal Court judgment against Granada Television as "contrary to the public interest".

We are responsible for producing BBC Television's current affairs programmes. Without wishing to comment on the reasons for the judgment, we greatly fear its consequences. We have all, on occasions, broadcast the details of documents or information not dissimilar to those broadcast by *World in Action*, because it seemed to us to be in the public interest to do so. That could do so at all, however, was often only due to the willingness of informants to provide us with the relevant information. If informants believe their identities may well be revealed, such sources of information will dry up. Our programmes will be less well-informed and our ability to serve the public seriously impaired.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN GAU,
Head of Current Affairs
Programmes,
CHRISTOPHER CAPRON,
Assistant Head of Current Affairs
Programmes,
ROGER BOLTON,
Editor *Panorama*,
GEORGE CAREY,
Editor *Newsnight*,
PAUL ELLIS,
Editor *The Money Programme*

PETER IBBOTSON,
Editor *Newsweek*,
HUGH WILLIAMS,
Editor *Nationwide*,
JOHN REYNOLDS,
Editor, Special Projects,
British Broadcasting Corporation, Lime Grove Studios, W12.

Enter collective bargaining in the full knowledge that there are limits to what they can afford to pay. Yet these principles are conspicuously absent from the system by which the Government takes its own decisions about pay. The contrast is bound to breed resentment in those sectors of the economy which are not likely to be spared the compulsory redundancies which the Prime Minister ruled out for the public service.

These doubts will intensify if the Government strategy does succeed in forcing down the level of pay settlements over the years ahead. Because the pay research system works a year in arrears, during a period of declining real wages those covered by pay research suffer cuts in their living standards later than others. Ministers have begun to suggest that earnings in manufacturing industry are rising more slowly than in the rest of the economy. But do they really believe that a deterioration in the relative level of pay in manufacturing compared to the civil service is really a desirable part of their policy?

If the principle of comparability were to go, what would take its place? The answer lies in much greater flexibility in determining public sector pay so that it is linked to the rate necessary to attract enough people to fill the jobs on offer. At present, with the public sector as well off compared to the rest of the economy as it was in 1975, pay levels are almost certainly too high.

Such an approach would be consistent with the Government's overall approach to pay determination. It would, of course, face problems in some sectors, particularly in the more senior posts which are currently protected from competition from outside. But the fact that a system cannot work everywhere is no reason for not using it in those fields where it is applicable. And the fact that the senior grades of the Civil Service are currently closed to outside recruitment is as much an argument for changing the system of recruitment, as for continuing with a system of pay determination which is an engine of inflation.

As to administrative costs, I have seen the Wandsworth Borough Council's report "which attempt to quantify the administrative savings which could be made if ILRA were dismantled." The report assumes that, if this were to happen, education costs in inner London would become like those of the outer London boroughs. That is illogical. In the absence of the ILRA, education's administrative costs would be more likely to approach those of the other services now run by the inner London boroughs.

The latest national published estimates, with the accruals for the previous year used for one inner London borough, show that this would mean if the number of administrative staff is taken as 11,111 in 1978-79, the 20 outer London boroughs would employ 2,216 administrative staff in their personal social services.

The comparable figure for the inner London boroughs was 2,78. On their education services, the outer London boroughs expected to employ 2,42 administrative and support staff. The comparable ILRA figure for 1978-79 is 1,643.

The fact is that although all inner London administrative staff costs are high, for reasons I would be prepared to defend, the ILRA services are considerably lower than those of the outer London boroughs.

The report Mr Baker refers to declares that there would be administrative savings of about £14m if ILRA services were transferred to the boroughs. I hope I will not be thought interminable if I describe this as fanciful.

Yours faithfully,

P. A. NEWSHAM
The County Hall, SE1.

Education in London

From the Education Officer for the Inner London Education Authority

Sir, May I offer two comments on Mr Baker's letter on the Inner London Education Authority (May 13). First, I have yet to meet anyone concerned with the ILRA who does not consider examinations important.

But they are not all important, and when results are compared, like needs to be compared with like. That is all that is being said.

As to administrative costs, I have seen the Wandsworth Borough Council's report "which attempt to quantify the administrative savings which could be made if ILRA were dismantled." The report assumes that, if this were to happen, education costs in inner London would become like those of the outer London boroughs. That is illogical.

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Yours faithfully,

P. A. NEWSHAM
The County Hall, SE1.

Ireland: a new division

From Professor Thomas Finan

Sir, Dr Brookfield (April 21) has stirred an interesting discussion among British citizens on whether and how to redraw the map of Ireland. I trust the argument is not confined, and that anyone, even an Irish citizen, may join in.

Briefly, the whole exchange is depressing. How can the Irish problem ever be solved if, with apparent good will, we are offered "solutions" built on unconvincing assumptions of such unsoundable naivete about even the psychology of what is going on? Just imagine that those who only want their own country back (rightly or wrongly) will stop content with (to coin a phrase) one third of the loaf! Or, better still, will give the whole loaf back to Britain. They are, however, permitted to go abroad for health or business reasons and one Jew gave me the names of two of his friends who are in the United States at present.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS FINAN,
Editor of Superbikes, Link House,
Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9,
Maynooth College, Co. Kildare.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public inquiries into new technology?

From Mr Colin Tully

Sir, Mr Christopher of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation (May 13) made some important observations on a statement by Mr Paul Channon about new technology in the Civil Service. Mr Channon is concerned about obligation to the taxpayer. Mr Christopher about obligation to his members and to those (especially school-leavers) who will be denied jobs in the future. Mr Channon said: "If necessary, we shall have to insist that new equipment which will improve cost-effectiveness must be used, despite union opposition." Mr Christopher writes: "People ... are scared now not only for their own jobs: they wonder where their children will work."

The issue could hardly be more

and how should they be balanced? We could not expect Mr Channon or Mr Christopher, each with a necessarily partial view of the problem, to have answers to those questions, and we can be certain that no one else has.

We have become accustomed to inquiries into motorway and other development plans. If this current proposal may destroy thousands of jobs, it is less important to examine it carefully than a proposal which, at similar cost, may destroy dozens of homes in an area of natural beauty? Further, we may soon come to look back on schemes such as this one or the Vehicle Licensing Scheme, much as we now recognize the failure of large-scale redevelopment projects in the sixties.

The introduction of new technology in a large scale in public sector administration is a matter of legitimate public interest. We could discuss the general issues involved. If we clearly understand individual cases, we should not be discouraged from making such an attempt by technical complexities: the system professionals concerned should submit their decisions and designs to public scrutiny.

The matter is too important to be resolved by negotiations behind closed doors between management and unions or, worse, to be publicly presented in a distorted way by means of a strike.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN J. TULLY,
Department of Computer Science,
University of York.<



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 16: Mr Justice Webster had the honour of being received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Justice, when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.

Mr D. F. Murray was received in audience by The Queen and knighted during his appearance to Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Stockholm.

Mrs Murray had the honour of being received by The Queen when Mr Justice Gwilt had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Justice of the High Court of Justice when The Queen conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.

The Duke of Edinburgh, attended by Mr Richard Davies, left Heathrow Airport, London, today in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight to Canada, where His Excellency, as President of the Conference, will attend the Fifth Commonwealth Study Conference.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, continued his visit to North Park Estate, near Bath today.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Service of Dedication at the Church of St Mary, Ashtown, Co. Dublin.

Her Royal Highness later opened St Mary's Community Centre. The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 16: Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a Gala Performance of the film *My Brilliant Career*, in aid of the British Red Cross Society of which Her Royal Highness is Vice-President at the Regent Cinema in Penrith, Cumbria. The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Pope John Paul II is 60 tomorrow. A memorial service for Lady Elizabeth von Hoffmann will be held at St Mary's on Paddington Green on Tuesday, May 20, at noon.

A memorial service for Emeritus Professor B. M. Newitt will be held on Thursday, May 22, 1980, at 2.30 pm at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London, SW7.

Birthdays today

The Dowager Lady Bedfellow, 97; Sir Charles Marshal Sir Michael Benthall, 57; Sir Charles Cawley, 73; Professor J. D. Cragg, 65; Major Sir Geoffrey Eastwood, 85; Sir Richard Graham, 68; Viscount Maughan, 64; Sir Eric Meadmore, 74; Sir Alec Ogilvie, 67; Lieutenant Sir Michael Sir Donald Packard, 77; Sir Edward Playfair, 71; Professor H. E. Watson, 94.

TOMORROW: Mr Rodney Ackland, 72; Dame Margaret Fonteyne Atkin, 61; Sir Norman Costkirk, 71; Sir Clifford Curzon, 73; Lord Hailsham, 80; Sir Donald Packard, 72; Sir Edward Playfair, 71; Sir Herbert Marchant, 74; Major-General Lewis Pugh, 73; Mr Norman St John-Stevens, MP, 31; Lord Schon, 68; Mr Charles Wintour, 62.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs John Comyn was christened Hugo Charles Burney by the Rev E. W. Evans, Chaplain, in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Tuesday, by permission of the governor. The organist was Mr Ian Carter. The godparents were Mr Alwyn Ribeiro, Mr Dibby Mackworth, Mr Simon Smith and Miss Celia Clear.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, attends Fifth Commonwealth Study Conference, Canada.

The Prince of Wales dines at All Souls College, Oxford, 7.

Princess Anne and Michael of Kent attend Guidhall reception, Dartmouth, 11, visit National Trust properties near Dartmouth.

International Air Fair, Biggin Hill, Kent, 9-6.

Animal exploration symposium, Commonwealth Institute, The Strand, Kensington High Street, 30-31.

Bodle Fair: Andoue and Victorian bottles, Ashburnham School, New Kings Road, Chelsea, 1-5.

Police garage opens day: Alerton, Barnes, Bermondsey, Euston, Finsbury, Holloway, Hampstead, Surbiton, Croydon 10-4.

Muriel Dauing: Tower Hill, 2.

Micklefield School, Seaford

Commemoration Day, celebrating the seventh anniversary of the foundation of Micklefield School, will be held on Saturday, July 5.

All Old Girls and friends of the school will be welcome at the thanksgiving service and dinner and should write to the secretary for further details.

Colston's Girls' School

Miss Ann C. Parke, head of science and first assistant at Croydon High School, has been appointed as Headmistress of Colston's Girls' School, Bristol, from January, 1981, in succession to Miss Sarah Dunn.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. J. Allner and Miss S. I. McCann
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs C. G. Allner, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. S. McCann, of Redbourn, Hertfordshire.

Mr D. M. Baldock
The marriage will take place on May 20 in Northeast Harbour, Maine, United States, between David Markham, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Baldock, of Liphook House, Liphook, Hampshire, and Linda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Rosenblum, of New City, New York.

Captain C. F. S. Grant
The engagement is announced between Charles Grant, 16th/5th QR Lancers, elder son of Seaford Manor, Southgate, Kent, and Catherine Grant, of The Causey, Cranleigh, Surrey.

Miss J. O. J. Stevens
The marriage of Gisela Turcke of Brunswick, West Germany, and H. Turke, of Bildeheim, West Germany.

Mr R. J. Kappa
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Peter Kappa, of Sculbury Manor, Southgate, Kent, and Linda, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. O. J. Stevens, of Croydon, Hampshire.

Mr R. Kattainen
The engagement is announced between Raymond Kattainen and Noel Hawkins.

Dr C. Kendall
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Dr and Mrs A. C. Kendall, of Coventry, Warwickshire, and Lubica, youngest daughter of General and Mrs A. S. Gavric, of Tavnik, Yugoslavia.

Dr S. J. Moore
The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. J. Moore, of Milton, Staffordshire, and Ivy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Campbell, of Winsford, Cheshire.

Mr A. G. Thomson Gibson and Miss L. A. D. J. Fairley
The engagement is announced between Angus, younger son of the Rev T. J. and Mrs Thomson Gibson, of Badminton Vicarsage, Badminton, Gloucestershire, and Leanda, daughter of the late Mr Richard Fairley and of Mrs M. H. D. Madam of Higher Treweyan, Withiel, Cornwall.

Mr N. Triantafylakis and Miss N. C. Konis
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Yanni Triantafylakis of Athens, and Serena, only daughter of the late Marcus Konis and of Mrs Marcus Konis, of La Ferme des Hubis, St. Martin Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Marriages

The Hon Vicary Gibbs and Miss J. N. Tolley
The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's, Westminster, between the Hon Vicary Gibbs, eldest son of Lord and Lady Aldenham of Riplington Manor, Yeovil, Somerset, and Miss Josephine Nicole Fell, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John F. Tolley of Lower Tiverton, Somerset.

The bride, who was given to marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory silk taffeta and a veil of Brussels lace held in place by a diamond chain. She carried a bouquet of white roses, Stephanotis and Hills-of-the-valley. Piers and Corin Gibbs, Torben Charles and Cicely Fell, Miss Alexandra Fell, the Hon Antonio Gibbs and Miss Geraldine Oulton attended her. Mr Charles Barton was best man.

The wedding reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

The Hon R. H. Strutt and Miss J. M. de Jonge
The marriage took place on Monday, May 12, in London between the Hon. Richard Strutt and Mrs J. M. de Jonge.

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Muriel Dauing: Tower Hill, 2.

The significance of Ascension Day for our time

The Ascension of Christ may seem to be an awkward inheritance from the early days of Christianity, a curious piece of folklore typical of the myth-makers of the time. How can modern man be asked to believe a story which rests on a pre-Copernican view of the universe and includes levitation of the body of Christ? Yet the Ascension was an essential part of the faith of the early Church, the physical details so strange to us in fact only played a small part in their conviction.

Its importance for us today rests in the faith enshrined in the Ascension, that the universe

has a meaning and man's life in this vast cosmic sphere is purposeful and that the whole creation has an ultimate goal. Behind earthly phenomena the ascended Christ reigns, directing his purpose in ways beyond our understanding. Hope is given a new dimension. Human life can also be an ascension and not just the decline of our powers.

The view that the appearance of the risen Christ is only early vivid examples of his presence, which Christians of all ages have known, raises more problems than it solves. Paul's argument in 1. Corinthians 15, rests entirely upon the visible appearance to people still alive, with whom

the facts could be checked. We know, however, probably never the exact form it took; Luke's account in Acts says that "a cloud received him out of their sight". Granted the cosmology of their time, the ascended Christ could not have been interpreted as "going up" in any other way than a going up. We cannot think literally in these terms, yet for the modern Christians "going up" is a metaphor of movement into a higher sphere. For the Church today, as for the early Christians, the truth of the Ascension is far more important than any spatial considerations.

Belief in the Ascension confirms man's latent hope that life does not end in waste and extinction but leads on to eternity. What was a shadowy and problematic existence beyond the grave in the Old Testament becomes in the New Testament a place of light, reality and expansion. "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there you may be also"; because Jesus has gone before them Christians look forward to a new existence and fulfilment after this life. The purpose of this belief on our attitudes towards our circumstances, to moral standards, to suffering and death, are enormous. Belief in eternity is not escapism but fulfilment.

The Ascension answers man's deepest questions about a purpose in the universe. Neither Jew nor Christian believes in a remote God but in one who is active in history. The Christian faith is that God took human nature at the incarnation: he did not disrupt it at the Ascension; like an actor removing his disguise, but took the mankind into the Godhead. Thus the alienation between God and man, described in the myth of Genesis, is reversed in the Ascension; man and God are now at one again. The purpose of creation has been fulfilled, human nature is exalted and in the ascended Christ mankind has potentially reached its goal.

Wordsworth reminds us that "we come from God, who is our home", but he does not tell us how man can get back to that home and so be at rest in the universe. But his nephew Bishop Christopher Wordsworth wrote, "He has raised our human nature". Man with God is on earth in heaven; the Church is in heaven; the human body is refreshed and kept alive by air breathed in by the head, so the body of Christ on earth, with all its members, breathes another air, without which it would stagnate. In its worship of the head, of "God", as the Creed puts it, the Church is in touch with the earthly lot who have sold their earthly lot and drunk its joyous and bitter cup to the full. The People of God on earth are thus given a unique insight into the being of God and a share in the divine activity and purpose. "The Mighty Lord, in this Ascension, in his faith, behold our own". Life here can be an ascension and life hereafter its consummation.

For many, Christ is only the teacher of Galilee, the remarkable preacher of the Sermon

on the Mount. Ascension Day calls for a deeper faith. In his Easter appearance Jesus was seen in a new way, independent of space and time. At his Ascension his presence became universal. Worship is now seen as something more than a means of edification and help, for we come into a presence.

In Christian worship a door is opened in heaven; the Church on earth is in touch with its living head, the ascended Lord; as the human body is refreshed and kept alive by air breathed in by the head, so the body of Christ on earth, with all its members, breathes another air, without which it would stagnate.

He who sits at the right hand of "God", as the Creed

puts it, the Church is in touch with the earthly lot who have sold their earthly lot and drunk its joyous and bitter cup to the full. The People of God on earth are thus given a unique insight into the being of God and a share in the divine activity and purpose.

The specialty Stanks chose,

that of radiology, will best be remembered

as senior joint editor of the monthly *Text Book of Diagnosis*, which ran into

editions and had an international reputation for clarity and conciseness.

Of his para-radiological activities the best known was of President of the Medical Defence Union, an office he occupied for many years, shrewdness and native

genius made him the ideal

mentor of his fellow doco

urants during their days of legal distress.

Shanks was ever helpful

to the mature and the developing

alike, and had an old-world

graciousness in many ways

as well as at all times an eng

raconteur, either over lun

cuppings, or in a narrative

required.

His own speciality honoured

him by electing him President

of their College, and in 1973 he was awarded the College Gold

Medal. He also represented

Graham R. Sansbury

Devon bull supreme champion at show

From Our Correspondent

Exeter

Fairnington Baron, a Devon

bulldog, aged three years and three

months, lived up to its record

price tag at the second day of

the Devon County Show in Exeter

yesterday.

Appearing in a British show

for the last time before

being exported to Brazil for a

breed record price of more

than £20,000, the bull carried off

a new record for the

centenary of the

Devon Bull Show.

The champion was

Lord Justice, a bull from

Worle, Bristol, and of

Mr Timothy Lawrence.

Service dinners

The Royal Welch Fusiliers

The annual dinner of the Royal

Welch Fusiliers took place last

night at the Hotel Royal

Exeter. P. R. Lauchan,

Colonel of the Regiment, presided,

and the guest of the evening was

Major-General A. G. E. Stewart

Exeter.

British hand out warm welcome after decade of waiting

By Martin Tyler

Last May 16

Scotland 0
Northern Ireland welcomed back to Belfast tonight in absence of 10 years and celebrated with their first in the British Championship five years. Scotland will not then world cup fixture here.

The first half offered plenty of consider the significance of the representation of these amateur national at Wembley Park, the expression of the male and female, and a decision to beaten an attack which was continually founding on the twin rocks of Chris Nicholl and the promising O'Neill, of Leicester City. Dalglish was moved to put his frustrations into words and was cautioned for dissent by Mr. Justice. The latter left the field to represent the Scottish management for touchline coaching.

Northern Ireland finished much the stronger of the two sides. With 16 minutes left, Brotherton rapped a drive against Thompson's and Plant's replacement, and went to the side, shorn of their and constituent, made a decisive impact. With five players in their first appearances at level neither side gave the early crowd any coordinated to appreciate in the first half. The latter was height by an uneven surface and lingering warmth on the pitch.

That period Scotland leaned on the energy of Gemmill, and him, others less experienced, to mislead the visitors together. Two of the new sides, however, convinced Scotland's only first-half chance, vision so effective in goal in under-21 sides but nervous again to mislead the visitors, the driving force had to with, with some a long clearance the expensive Archibald to with gusto, but volley over bar.

Northern Ireland had offered a attack when, in the 27th minute, he suddenly took the ball.

Hamilton, who had on it enough goals to keep the second division, specially used a soft centre to Scotland's defence. A strong left him beyond McLeish and left him powerfully on the line. Beyond him for his first international goal.

Hamilton might have expected a similar hesitancy by land. But now, he was

troubled by double vision from a first half collision and he had little contact with a loose ball. As the chance went away, so, too, did Hamilton. The use of McClelland in a striking role as his replacement emphasized the popularity of Billy Bingham's resources; McClelland was this season's player of the year at Mansfield Town, but for his work at centre half.

On the hour Jock Stein reached for a double substitution, Jordan and Plant replaced Stevens and Weir, the expression of the male and female, and a decision to beaten an attack which was continually founding on the twin rocks of Chris Nicholl and the promising O'Neill, of Leicester City. Dalglish was moved to put his frustrations into words and was cautioned for dissent by Mr. Justice. The latter left the field to represent the Scottish management for touchline coaching.

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On the ball: McGrain (left) takes on Hamilton

Argentina so cool

From a Special Correspondent

Dublin, May 15

Re of Ireland 0 Argentina 1

Holding the world champion to a single goal was enough to satisfy 30,000 fans at Lansdowne Road tonight. This was a prestige match in which a piecemeal Irish side beat Argentina, and 19-year-old Diego Maradona, a well publicized star attraction.

Argentina can be satisfied with their performance in the second match on their European tour. The margin of victory was small. The game was well played and Ireland played as they desired and Ireland hardly looked like scoring.

With a 28th minute goal Argentina made their trip worthwhile.

The move was typically simple: Maradona, Barbas, stood over free-kick. Just outside the area and the left, Maradona and his header sped past a sprawling Gerry Peyton. The game died in the second half and Argentina played a cool game up front. Such was their control in the back that Ireland, without a top player, failed to find a single chance.

IRELAND: G. Peyton; D. Langen, K. Moran, P. O'Leary, C. Eustace, G. Daly, T. McGrath, G. Wade, D. Glavin, P. McCloskey, S. McHugh, S. Doherty, T. W. Hamilton (McCarthy), C. Armstrong, T. J. O'Neill, D. Courtney, J. T. Murphy, T. Brophy, D. Armstrong, P. O'Connell, K. McNamee, D. Starchan, P. Weir, D. J. Jordan, D. Archibald, P. Weir (sub), J. Jordan. Referee: C. Thomas (Ireland).

ARGENTINA: P. Gonzales, P. Rizzo, N. Nelson, B. Taboada, J. Walcott, V. Tarragona, G. Lopez, P. Simon, T. Tarragona, G. Lopez, D. Maradona, D. Price (sub), S. Vaessen. Referee: G. Nolan (Ireland).

British Championship gets a poor deal from new ideas

Norman Fox

Chief Correspondent

the British Championship, com- in 1883-84, continues to be from its unique position the oldest international football series in the world. Regrettably, even the match between England and Scotland, which in the event was delayed, has been curtailed by the officials because of some spectators and a virtue remains comes under from the congestion of fixture list.

England's team for today's a against Wales at Wrexham and draw attention to the plight the tournament. The foreign players, Keegan and Wood have returned to Germany,

immediately causing the team who beat Argentina to be fragmented. Cunningham, of West Ham, is the last to withdraw, but it is not clear why he is injured. The list goes on, with players missing through alternative commitments or injuries.

Given the circumstances, Ron Greenwood, the England manager, had to choose a side sufficiently strong in defense not to be embarrassed, but different in pattern to the team which had been chosen. He started last night to field a substantial defence, including Clemente, Neal and Thompson, of Tuesday's side, with Lloyd and Cherry added.

As expected, Lloyd, the Nottingham Forest central defender, will return to international football

after an absence of eight years. All of the other Forest players have been retained by the club for international duty, and the manager, Brian Clough, apparently sympathetic with Mr. Greenwood's need to be sure that if necessary Lloyd could replace Watson during the European Championship.

In midfield Mr. Greenwood was restricted by injuries to Wilkins and McDermott. Although both Brooking and Kennedy are probably in need of rest before the challenges ahead, both have to play. Hoddle, who was so impressive in his first appearance against Bulgaria, when he scored a superb goal, is given another opportunity.

Large number of the players from whom the team will be chosen have minor injuries and others are not fit for the opportunity of a restful weekend.

The defence will be: Clemente; Neal, Thompson, Lloyd and Cherry.

ENGLAND: R. Clemente (Liver- pool), P. Neal (Liverpool), P. Thompson (West Ham), D. Lloyd (Not- ham Forest), T. Cherry (Leeds United), G. Hoddle (Tottenham Hotspur), R. Kennedy (Bolton), R. Brooking (Sheffield United), S. Wilkins (Sheffield United), D. Watson (Bolton), P. Wilkins (Bolton Albion).

WALES: D. Jones (Wrexham), P. Price (Llanelli Town), D. Jones (Norwich City), T. Williams (Wrexham), D. Hoddle (Sheffield United), T. Watson (Wrexham), M. Thomas (Manchester City), G. Price (Luton), S. Vaessen (Swansea City).

Referee: E. Milam (North East-

icket.

Weakened Somerset may e without Botham

Marcus Williams

Editor

England, all-rounder, Ian Botham may miss today's Benson & Hedges Cup match against Gloucestershire because of a knee injury. This would be a blow for Somerset, who are ready without their two West Country players, Richards and Gower, for a game which should win the qualifying spot. D. Middlesex have won their matches and come into the competition. Surrey and Middlesex have made the semi-final. Somerset made the semi-final. The group leaders, Northamptonshire, play the West Indian tourists at Milton Keynes a new first-class venue—and are beaten by Cook in the continue absence of Watcom.

Somerset play Surrey at Oval, bring in Mark Nicholas, a 22, a former Bradford Col- boy, for his first international. The stand-off with Rice, now recovered from his knee injury, kept him out against Middlesex on Wednesday, and Terry Southern are omitted. Cott

on Wednesday, Ian Botham

and, on Saturday, the stand-in openers, drop down the order.

Botham, a player of 103 and 72 in the second eleven game just finished, and the experienced Higgs into their 12, for the group A match against Northamptonshire at Grace Road, on Saturday, June 13.

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SPORT

Racing

Derby favourite stops training after catching a viral chill

From Desmond Stoneham
French Racing Correspondent

Paris, May 16

Nureyev, the current favourite for the English Derby on June 4, has had his training interrupted by a viral chill. Speaking from Normandy this morning, Sir Philip Paynter-Gallwey, who manages the Nureyev racing stable, said: "I think the decision to withdraw Nureyev's Epsom presence will be made for another eight days. Nureyev, who was disqualified after winning the 2,000 Guineas, is not running a temperature and is being kept up to strength by a team established at Newmarket for the English classic.

The group I Prix Lupin at Longchamp on Sunday has an open look about it and at least eight of the runners have enough credentials to win the event. I am siding with the Aga Khan's Kareljan but will not be surprised if the Frenchman, Lise, Concorde, Nice, Harris, in Fijar and the English challenger, Saint Jonathon, whereabouts at the finish. There will be two pacemakers in the 10-furlong event. Maimoun and Jacques Helyot will be riding Kareljan. In Fijar will have the assistance of Bouabdil.

Racecourse, but an unlucky run in the Preakness has month and would surely have taken the event from Julius Caesar but for running into all sorts of trouble which cost the colt the third place and resulted in Yves Saint-Martin's second for four days. When making his first appearance in the Prix de Courances, Kareljan defeated Julius Caesar by two and half lengths without being subjected to the slightest of pressures.

First of the line was beaten a head by Blast Off in the Prix de Suresnes earlier this month and was third in the three-lengths of a six-length away third. However, I believe there to be an enormous amount of improvement in first of the line, whose Alcide Head considers to be his best three-year-old colt. In fact, the decision to run Blast Off in the L'Amazzone at the moment, Freddie Head had been booked to ride the François

Boutin-trained Nice, Havrals and had partnered that colt in his last work at Chantilly.

Lester Piggott teams up with Corvaro, the colt off his habitual morning drowsiness and is working brilliantly alongside Nice, Havrals last Tuesday. In his only race this season, Corvaro was beaten two lengths by Shakespear in the Prix de la Forêt, having gained a lot of ground to make up in the final furlongs. Unfortunately the form of the Prix du Guiche has worked out badly. The winner ran fourth behind Motte in the Prix de la Forêt and Motte and Hocquart and in the Prix Matchem at Six days ago. Police-man and Dip, respectively third and fourth in the Prix du Guiche, were defeated by a handicapper, Axion (gave 2 lb).

Nice, Havrals, the mount of Joe Mercer, could go close if his usual form and character does not win the day. In playing up before the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, Nice injured his near hind leg on the starting stalls and there after missed four days work. If Nice, Havrals fails to make up the ground in which he struggled back to challenge Nureyev and Known Fact, he will be only a length behind Nureyev and with a clear passage he might have conceivably toppled the favourite's won on merit.

Fijar, Drawn up in the 10-furlong, will be a hard task for Current Charge, who had an unexpected win in the Tetrarch Stakes but he will need to improve vastly if he is to represent a real danger.

Paddy Prendergast is having a

great run of success and his

stable relies on the unbeaten

Known Fact. On the other side he

should not be surprised if McCarron

Trial Stake form with Mon-

teverdi especially now that the

ground has hardened up.

There was substance, however,

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Managed funds

Unit trusts versus insurance bonds

Faced with a choice between unit trusts and unit-linked insurance bonds, the investor may well ask: which is the best for me? Although these two investment vehicles basically serve the same purpose, the Inland Revenue treats both the funds and those investing in them in completely different ways. This all helps to confuse the investor, a situation no doubt enhanced by the recent changes in the Budget.

Tax changes made in the Budget have swung the investment pendulum more in favour of unit trusts for the smaller investor. Thanks to the raising of the capital gains tax exemption limit to £3,000, changes in the rules of applying this tax, and to concessionary treatment on the income from gilts, unit trusts have the tax edge over bonds linked to insurance companies for this type of investor.

The case of the smaller investor who pays no more than basic rate tax is fairly straightforward. From the beginning of this tax year unit trusts no longer have to pay tax on any capital gains made in the fund. The liability has been totally passed on to the investor. This should allow managers a more flexible approach to investment, enabling them to switch from one stock to another without having to consider the tax position.

It also means a tax-free roll-up for the unitholders although they will be liable to tax on their gains, if any. But importantly, the new exemption limit of £3,000 will mean that for many unitholders, their gains are tax-free.

Insurance company bondholders have never had this concession, a situation that has been aggravated by the latest increase in the exemption limit.

With an internal bond fund, the insurance company—*not* the investor—pays the capital gains tax as and when assets are sold. The price is therefore adjusted to allow for the full 30 per cent on realised gains.

On unrealised gains a smaller deduction is made to cover future liabilities. Since an insurance company does not necessarily have to sell investments to meet its requirements—it can use its cash flow for new premiums—it builds up a contingency reserve by charging investors a reduced rate of tax on unrealised gains.

It would be totally unfair to charge the whole of the capital gains tax due to a policyholder investing in the fund when the company sells assets in favour of those who cashed in at an earlier date but nevertheless still benefited from the gains on the investment to some extent.

The amount of "contingency" deduction reflected in the price of units varies from company to company but is usually around the 15 per cent mark. It does not, however, make up for the loss of the £3,000 exemption for the smaller investor holding unit trusts.

As far as the funds are concerned there is nothing to choose between the tax treatment of income from equities. Both pay the statutory 30 per cent and there is nothing further to pay for the basic rate taxpayer.

On the gilts side, however, unit trusts, which were once penalised if they invested in their securities, have now been given the freedom to launch new gilt unit trusts. Once they have approval from the Department of Trade (some time in the autumn), unit trusts will have a slight advantage in that tax on unranked income, earned on investments, will be limited to 30 per cent, against 37.5 per cent in an insurance bond.

How large this handicap will prove to be depends on the extent to which insurance company fund managers convert "income" to "capital" by selling "cum" dividend, that is, selling while the pent-up income is reflected in the price, before being paid out to investors.

All this adds up to the conclusion that on the tax front unit trusts generally will be a better bet than insurance bonds for the smaller investor paying basic rate tax.

The case is not nearly so clear cut for the higher rate taxpayer. It all depends on your rate of tax and whether you can hold off encashment of your investment until such a time as your tax rate is lower than what you are paying at the moment.

As a higher rate taxpayer, the choice between unit trusts and bonds can make a large difference to your tax payments, due to the different approach by the Inland Revenue.

If you invest in unit trusts, you will be liable to income tax at your marginal rate on any income paid out by the trust even if you opt to reinvest it in the fund. This involves record keeping and filling in tax returns every year. Larger investors will be subject to the full 30 per cent on capital gains over and above the £3,000 limit.

As an insurance company bondholder, on the other hand, you will not incur any personal liability until you cash in your investment. Then you will be subjected to "top slicing", which need not be as painful as it sounds. The total profit made is divided by the number of years the policy has been in force. The answer is then added to your income for that year in order to establish the rate of tax you will have to pay on the whole gain.

So long as you can stay off cashing in your bond until your income tax rate drops, the investment can prove more tax efficient than a unit trust.

Backing on the cake comes with the tax-free withdrawals allowance which gives you an income. You can take an average of 5 per cent a year of your original investment for 20 years without liability to higher rate tax. When you cash in on your bond all withdrawals are added in for "top slicing" calculations.

Tax considerations apart, bonds are a better bet for those who want to switch around from one investment sector to another as and when market conditions warrant such a change. The advantages of doing this through bonds, rather than switching in and out of unit trusts, are two-fold: whereas with a unit trust you could face a capital gains tax bill.

First there is no liability to tax on switching within a bond. Secondly it is much cheaper. Insurance companies charge around 0.5 per cent of the value of your money, while with a unit trust you could have to pay initial charges again each time. Large investors should, however, negotiate for better terms.

Bonds are also able to offer investors direct holdings in property, an avenue that has so far been closed to the unit trust holder.

Sylvia Morris

Investor's week

Special situations beckon

Carry on, Britain, cried Margaret Thatcher after the nation moaned even a one-day General Strike.

But carry on doing what? Should companies carry on borrowing millions from their bank managers at 20 per cent or more a year? For, if they do, Mrs T said, minimum lending rates, already at a hitherto unheard of 17 per cent for an unheard of six months, will not come down.

And something else which carries on, according to the Department of Employment, is average earnings, growing at 20 per cent a year and showing no signs of falling. And the carry-on is one we can all share: prices we pay in the shops are also rising at nearly 22 per cent a year.

And large the stock market ignored Mrs Thatcher. The FT index almost froze. A week ago it was 435.6. On Friday it closed at 435.7.

Now we criticize hedgehogs

for freezing in the middle of the road when trapped in car headlights. Is the market's immobility akin to that of hedgehogs about to get a mighty thwack or is it the stiffness of Englishmen's upper lips?

Broker Simon & Coates puts the problem in language suitable for instructional clients: "The argument can be put between those who see little downside risk but regard conditions as unfavourable for an early rise in prices and those whose medium-term bullishness over-rides short-term considerations of timing."

If Hedges Tantalus reached for fruit which the wind wafted down when he tried to grab it, then Throgmorton Street would-be buyers of gilts and shares react for cheaper money and a growing economy, but, like mirages, they dance away when seemingly within grasp.

The market suspects that monetarists have got it wrong. When money supply was growing

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Rises				
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
388p	276p	Bensford S & W	5p to 140p	Bid for Brit Sugar
184p	150p	Currys	17p to 181p	First qtr pt poor
138p	98p	Euro Ferries	8p to 138p	Good yr's figs
350p	268p	Eurothorn	21p to 333p	Investment buying
256p	217p	Holt Lloyd	21p to 238p	Pt above forecasts
Falls				
170p	136p	Bensford S & W	5p to 140p	Bid for Brit Sugar
252p	212p	Gen Accident	16p to 246p	First qtr pt poor
208p	136p	Harris Q-way	22p to 171p	Int loss worse than feared
340p	244p	Land Securities	7p to 330p	Figs next Monday
356p	307p	Royal Ins	14p to 331p	First qtr pt poor

Peter Wainwright

Round-up

Variations on a term share theme

More and more variations on the term share theme are flowing in from the building societies.

This week, the Leicester Building Society launched a five-year bond with a "get-out" option after two years, and a guaranteed differential two points above the ordinary share rate. The Option Bond is paying 12.5 per cent equivalent to 18.41 per cent for basic rate taxpayers.

The Anglia's High Income Bond introduced a couple of days later is the first six-year building society term share. The interest rate is 13 per cent, grossing to 18.57 per cent and the 2.5 point differential is also guaranteed.

Both societies are making much of the guaranteed differential over the ordinary share rate, at present 10.5 per cent. The guarantee does not cover the actual interest rate, but this means that should rates tumble within the next few years, when the gap between term and the

ordinary share rate would normally shrink, it will not in these two cases.

Figures issued by the Life Offices' Association show that the life assurance industry is to be totalled in £200m by new annual premiums for the first quarter of this year, 40 per cent more than in the comparable period last year. The unit-linked insurance side did better than the conventional business with a 57 per cent rise to £40.7m. New single premiums amounted to £17.7m, 8.5 per cent better than in the first quarter of last year. However, the unit-linked side showed a 3 per cent rise, while ordinary business, helped by the sale of short term bonds, rose by 31 per cent to £106m.

The Income Tax Payers' Society, the organization which "fights for tax payers", launches new campaign this week. The idea is to draw attention to four groups of taxpayers at 40 Doughty Street, London WC1.

Your advice to the owner of the lawn mower to refuse to pay for repairs he has not authorized is not, with respect,

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH... WILL IT START AFTER LANGUISHING HERE ALL WINTER?



BY M

Sticklepath community faces a turbulent future

New readers begin here. Old and experienced readers fall out on the other side of the road under that tree and rest. The story so far...

with his loathsome colleague, Mr Reginald Pluckitt, chairman of the Dartmoor Building Society, attempted to muscle in on this inside information, but their plans were foiled.

The upshot was that, due to the incomprehensibility of Sir Henry's will, it was not clear who would make the decision as to what was to be done.

Three rival factions therefore emerged in the village. There were the Crook-Berwick group, which included not only the colonel himself and Mr Pluckitt, but also the colonel's personal assistant, Gloria Darling-Friend; Assistant Sibling, company secretary of Allied Elderberry Wines; Uriah Stoop, the headkeeper at the Sticklepath Inn; and the Crumpwhistle-Towers' and Silius Crumpwhistle, foreman of the berry-fuelling department. Then there was the parish council faction, headed by the present Lady Baskerville, an elegant wraith of a lady with a psychic death-hand called Poggies; and finally the International Socialist Workers of Dartmoor, led by Kevin Luddite, local convenor of NASTI (National Association of Slackiddlers).

Turneepers and Idlebathers) and chief shop steward at Allied Elderberry Wines itself.

The issue was hotly debated in the village and various pitched battles took place with fell consequences to the atmosphere of peace and loving-kindness that had always prevailed to date. A village referendum reached a compromise solution: one half of the Great Grinپen Mire was sold for £100,000 to the Great Rockall and Hong Kong Mining Company, who at once moved in and started gobbling the tin ore out of it. The fate of the other half was to remain undecided for at least a year.

Meanwhile, a committee—the Great Grinپen Mire Investment Club—was formed to administer the proceeds of the sale. The committee consisted of the colonel, Lady Baskerville and Kevin Luddite, all ex-officia; the Rev Basil Quichehand, a limp but unswerving churchman; Ade Blot, the village postmistress, described by Lady Baskerville as having the brains of an earwig; Brian Thrift, the inestimable hor-

ing local manager of the Scottish Impenetrable Assurance Company; the dreaded Reginald Pluckitt; Agatha Sibling, who is an admirably efficient and hardworking secretary; and Alistair Sibling, Sam Spider, owner of Sticklepath Garage, and Prison Officer Walter ("Wormwood") Scrubbs of HM Prison Dartmoor.

The latter two have not attended any meetings to date but their time will come, as will that of the present Sir Henry Baskerville, who is at another lost city on the coast of Asia Minor. An intrepid explorer of everything at least 2,000 miles away from Sticklepath and Lady Baskerville herself is rarely seen at home.

However, his friendship with Dr Midas Doppelganger, professor of Industrial Anthropology at Mac West University, Florida, who is at present excavating the Temple of Mammon within him, cannot go without comment and will form an integral part of the way the story unfolds.

Practical pensic

Building up for yo retiremer

As a member of a scheme you can contril to 15 per cent of your towards your pension, a above what your employ on in your behalf. The problem on this limit is must not boost your sion beyond the Revenue able limits of two in final salary for at least 1 service, scaled down to who have worked for a for less than this time.

With voluntary contrates of company

rather than your en pays—averaging less than cent of salary, there is scope for you to take and live and your pen making an "additonal tary contribution" (AVC).

The Revenue demands you carry on paying th at least five years except in its view change in the summer. Minimum premium is £10, for about £80 worth of cover, so it is probably worth teaming up with a friend, rather than doing it alone.

Nearer home some insurers offer cover which will pay a set figure per day if someone is killed for jury service.

Most of us probably do not think of our teeth as being valuable, or other members of the family may have lost them.

If there is no way of telling if he is alive or dead, the personal representative may decide to distribute his share among the family fortunes if he should be assassinated.

If, however, somebody owes me money, I can insure his life for the amount of the debt, but no more. Illogically, if he re

turning up at a later date and claiming his share.

Quite often, insurance can be arranged in case somebody or something does not appear. Even the Corporation of Lloyd's has arranged insurance of this kind. When Lloyd's had a float in a Lord Mayor's Show, it paid a premium of £50 for cover to pay ascertained net loss sustained or incurred if the float should be prevented from participating due to any cause beyond the control of the Corporation.

That, no doubt, was prompted by the fact that the previous year one financial institution had found that its float would not start, with the result that it missed the show.

You can also insure against our unpredictable weather, for instance "no play" at Wimbledon, owing to rain. Cover includes the price of tickets, travel, overnight accommodation and so on.

The Eagle Star, the main insurer for weather risks, may be on to a good thing, since in its view change in the summer. Minimum premium is £10, for about £80 worth of cover, so it is probably worth teaming up with a friend, rather than doing it alone.

Nearer home some insurers offer cover which will pay a set figure per day if someone is killed for jury service.

Most of us probably do not think of our teeth as being valuable, or other members of the family may have lost them.

If there is no way of telling if he is alive or dead, the personal representative may decide to distribute his share among the family fortunes if he should be assassinated.

If, however, somebody owes me money, I can insure his life for the amount of the debt, but no more. Illogically, if he re

turns up at a later date and claims his share.

Furthermore, where you have reason to believe that the trader has not in fact carried out all the work charged for, you should report the matter to your local consumer protection department. They will prosecute if the trader has made a false statement regarding work not in fact carried out.

In October, 1972, I was working and living in London, with accommodation provided, so I bought a bungalow in Plymouth, Devon and offered it to my parents-in-law as a home. We intended to return there ourselves either before or after my retirement.

On October 15, 1972, my parents-in-law released the bill, so we furnished the bungalow and it has been to still is, let furnished to tenants. The purchase price of the property was £29,500.

From May 1, 1978, we have been living in Switzerland, working for a Swiss employer and are classed for United Kingdom tax purposes as "non-resident". We intend to return to the United Kingdom in April/May, 1982, which means an absence of four years. Before returning we

should be quite

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

rouse

For insurers quite rightly urge those who take their cars to the Continent not to rely on the automatic cover provided by a United Kingdom policy in a number of countries. It gives the bare minimum of cover required by law in each country. Instead it suggests that motor policies should be ended by the payment of an additional premium and the issue of a "green card". It acts as an international certificate of insurance.

That is fine for the holiday-maker who uses his car to the Continent for a few weeks. But what about somebody who needs to be on the Continent for longer? Apart from people establishing a business in another EEC country, there are undergraduates who go abroad for a year, particularly if they are studying a foreign language.

Most motor insurers are reluctant to end a United Kingdom policy for anyone

who will be staying on the Continent for more than three months. An "annual" green card is generally out of the question, although such facilities will be provided for haulage operators, coach owners, and the like whose vehicles are travelling back and forth.

Some insurers are more cooperative than others. While a small company may flatly refuse to help, a large company with branches on the Continent may get a local branch to provide the cover, making sure that a policy-holder does not lose because the United Kingdom policy has been cancelled in mid-term.

Isn't it about time that United Kingdom insurers got together with their continental counterparts and set up a scheme which would enable motorists going to the Continent for more than three months at a time to obtain insurance cover effectively and simply?

CLOSING

Prices move gently ahead

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand houses (seasonally adjusted)

	Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	6 months	3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757	20.8	8.8	4.7
June	109.3	16,133	18.9	8.3	5.6
September	118.2	17,450	23.0	12.0	8.2
December	121.1	17,861	21.1	10.7	2.4
1978 January	122.8	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
February	127.8	18,783	24.6	10.5	5.2
March	130.5	18,269	23.6	10.4	7.8
April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.2
May	136.2	20,094	30.4	13.6	7.0
June	138.4	20,341	26.1	18.5	5.6
July	142.8	21,031	26.2	18.0	8.2
August	145.2	21,427	26.0	14.1	5.6
September	145.5	21,480	23.1	11.5	5.6
October	149.5	22,065	27.4	13.5	4.9
November	151.4	22,336	26.3	11.2	4.3
December	151.0	22,291	24.8	9.5	3.8
1980 January	154.2	22,754	25.5	8.2	3.1
February	156.2	23,052	22.7	7.6	3.2
March	158.2	23,352	21.3	8.7	4.8
April	158.6	23,406	20.4	8.1	2.9

Average regional prices of second-hand houses		
	April	March
	£	£
North	17,217	17,189
Yorks and Humberside	16,590	16,575
North-west	16,715	16,408
East Midlands	16,249	17,944
West Midlands	20,481	20,540
East Anglia	21,700	21,721
Wales	18,988	19,074
South-west	24,635	24,251
South-east	30,921	30,483
Greater London	31,958	31,258
Northern Ireland	21,288	20,927
Scotland	16,988	16,687
		-7.6

Demand is picked up by those who can afford the more expensive houses, and this in turn pushes up the house price figures. Halifax branch managers report that what can loosely be described as "first-time buyer" property is sticking in their regions and national statistics confirm that new buyers' share of the mortgage allocations is dropping.		
The higher cost of home ownership since the mortgage rate was increased to 15 per cent in January means that many people have had to adjust their sights. In most regions it is possible still to substitute a cheaper property, but that option is not readily available in London.		
So first-time buyers retreat for a while, and the "slack" in		
activity on the part of first-time buyers.		
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Margaret Stone

Fixation

Investment income niceties

There is a tendency among people to close up on income when the word is mentioned; for them, the word is inaccessible and even misleading.

Like most other things, following a complicated path to comprehend your inwards, if you understand basic principles you will find that it is neither an incomprehensible nor an illogical affair at first appear. And in case of tax a little attention can bring real financial rewards.

Take the sections of the usual return on income from investments do seem more interesting than the others, you may be asking, do we have a separate section for the different kinds of investment income? Why just set out the investment gains, gains from bank accounts, gains from building societies, I mean, in one glorious list, I have done with it?

One of the reasons is that different types of investment income are taxed in different ways—or at least at different times.

In principle, investment income—and that includes most come from rented property—subject to income tax, and in addition, a 15 per cent surcharge if income is more than £5,000 (\$500 in 1980/81). When you work out your total investment income for purposes of the surcharge, you should deduct certain payments, such as alimony or interest on which you receive tax relief (such as mortgage).

So, if you have an investment one of say £10,000 and you

pay mortgage interest of say £3,000, you could be paying investment income surcharge on £10,000, less £3,000, less £5,000 equals £2,000.

The first section on investment income is interest which has not been taxed before you receive it. National Savings Bank and Trustee Savings Bank interest should all be included in the appropriate section—even if it is tax-free. Deposit account interest received by both you and your wife from other banks should normally be in the next section; since omissions in stating deposit account interest catch out many people.

Remember, dividends from British companies and unit trusts come next. You should enter the amounts of the dividend and tax credit shown on the voucher which you received from the company. The tax credit represents the basic rate tax, which has, in effect, been paid on your behalf by the company. If you have relatively little income, then you may be able to claim back part or all of the tax credit.

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Building society income is also taxed in the year of receipt and you receive it as if basic rate tax had been deducted. The difference is that if you are a non-taxpayer, you cannot reclaim any part of the tax.

"Any other profits or income" is a sweeping-up section, designed to bring in those various items of income that have not fitted in anywhere else—including alimony, maintenance payments or certain gains on life assurance policies, such as investment bonds, or regular premium policies that have been cashed in prematurely.

Where such income has suffered foreign tax, you may be allowed some relief—but this is likely to depend upon the double taxation treaty in force

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Penny bonds

Payment value in June of £100 invested in index-linked National Savings Retirement Issue.

Month or year	£100 certificate	Sept 1976	166.86	Feb 1978	138.43
Oct 1976		164.54		March 1978	137.63
Nov 1976		162.39		April 1978	136.83
Dec 1976		159.51		May 1978	135.97
Jan 1977		157.30		June 1978	134.02
Feb 1977		155.24		July 1978	133.27
March 1977		151.28		Aug 1978	132.25
April 1977		149.80		Sept 1978	131.65
May 1977		148.35		Oct 1978	130.75
June 1977		144.65		Nov 1978	130.21
July 1977		143.53		Dec 1978	129.59
Aug 1977		142.05		Jan 1979	128.79
Sept 1977		141.88		Feb 1979	127.72
Oct 1977		141.20		March 1979	125.87
Nov 1977		140.44		April 1979	124.84
Dec 1977		139.84		May 1979	123.84
Jan 1978		139.17		June 1979	121.76

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stone-Platt warning of asset disposals

By Richard Allen

Stone-Platt Industries, the textile machinery and engineering group, which was forced to restructure most of its bank loans because of a technical default, is hoping to be in a position to return to more normal banking arrangements within the next year.

However, Sir Kenneth Preston, the chairman, warned shareholders in the annual report that this will require asset disposals to bring the group back into better financial balance.

Mr. Preston said that on the trading front, 1980 is bound to be a difficult year due mainly to continuing uncertainties in the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the group has delayed setting a date for the annual meeting to enable proposals for changes in the company's articles of association to be put to stockholders.

Mr. Derrick Willingham, finance director, said last night that the changes covered borrowing facilities and were still in the process of drafting. Under existing articles, facilities are restrained by the level of stockholders' equity which plunged almost £10m to £55m last year, mainly as a result of an outflow of reserves on trading losses and provisions.

It was this plunge in shareholders' funds which triggered last month's technical default and necessitated the switch in the majority of the group's near £40m of debt from medium and long-term to a common maturity date of January 4, 1982.

Mr. Willingham said that the change in the articles was required to retain former facilities and give the group a "headroom" as it attempted to restore its financial balance.

In the annual report, no indication is given of possible asset disposals, although it is understood that the group is looking closely at its marine engineering division which moved into a marginal pre-interest loss last year.

Overall, the group turned from a £1.5m profit to a loss of £2.9m pretax and borrowing spiralled from £26m to £40m to meet a total cash outflow of over £15m, due mainly to acquisition costs and provisions for the planned closure of its Oldham textile plant.

Under the terms of the new arrangement on its borrowings, Stone-Platt cannot pay dividends without permission from the bankers.

The final dividend is 6p gross

making a total of 7.85p against 6.8p last time.

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown

as pre-tax and earnings are net. * Adjusted for scrip issue. † Loss.

Stock markets

Inflation figures deter buyers

The end of the first week of the Spring Bank holiday account was characterized by small falls in many sections of the market, although dealers on the oils pitches continued to be among the busiest. There was a definite absence of buying incentive as the retail price index recorded the anticipated jump in inflation, immediately following the "cheerless" news on bank borrowing.

Most of the blue chips drifted back a few pence, although ICI suffered from the production setbacks on the Ninian field and dropped 8p to 380p. Unilever lost 4p to 406p.

British Sugar moved up 4p to 202p, with S and W Bertrand gaining the same amount to 140p pending further bid developments. A suggestion of

Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts remain firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 12. Dealings End, May 30. § Contango Day, June 2. Settlement Day, June 9
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

d. c Corrected
suspension
agent. b Bid for
earnings. p F
r share split.
llings. e. N

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